The following gives some of the Armies, Regiments and Corps that Claremen fought with in WW1, the battles and events they died in, those who became POW’s, those who had shell shock, some brothers who died, those shot at dawn, Clare politicians in WW1, Claremen courtmartialed, and the awards and medals won by Claremen and women.

The people named below are those who partook in WW1 from Clare. They include those who died and those who survived. The names were mainly taken from the following records, books, websites and people:

Peadar McNamara (PMcN), Keir McNamara, Tom Burnell’s Book ‘The Clare War Dead’ (TB), The In Flanders website, ‘The Men from North Clare’ Guss O’Halloran, findagrave website, ancestry.com, fold3.com, North Clare Soldiers in WW1 Website NCS, Joe O’Muircheartaigh, Brian Honan, Kilrush Men engaged in WW1 Website (KM), Dolores Murrihy, Eric Shaw, Claremen/Women who served in the Australian Imperial Forces during World War 1 (AI), Claremen who served in the Canadian Forces in World War 1 (CI), British Army WW1 Pension Records for Claremen in service. (Clare Library), Sharon Carberry, ‘Clare and the Great War’ by Joe Power, The Story of the RMF 1914-1918 by Martin Staunton, Booklet on Kilnasoolagh Church Newmarket on Fergus, Eddie Lough, Commonwealth War Grave Commission Burials in County Clare Graveyards (Clare Library), Mapping our Anzacs Website (MA), Kilkee Civic Trust KCT, Paddy Waldron, Daniel McCarthy’s Book ‘Ireland’s Banner County’ (DMC), The Clare Journal (CJ), The Saturday Record (SR), The Clare Champion, The Clare People, Charles E Glynn’s ‘List of Kilrush Men in the Great War (C E Glynn), The 2nd Munsters in France HS Jervis, The ‘History of the Royal Munster Fusiliers 1861 to 1922’ by Captain S. McCance, The Clare Library Local Studies Centre.

I would like to especially thank the numerous people who donated information, stories and photos on relatives or neighbours who took part in WW1. Finally, my thanks to Larry Brennan and the Clare Roots Society for all their help, and to the Clare Library for publishing all the information on their website.
The Regiments/Forces that Claremen served with came from the following Provinces or Countries.

- Australia
- Belgium
- Canada
- Connaught
- England
- France
- India
- Leinster
- Munster
- New Zealand
- Russia
- Scotland
- South Africa
- South Rhodesia
- Ulster
- U.S.A
- Wales
- Irish Guards
- Also the Royal Navy
- Merchant Navy
Index

Page  4  Claremen and women in the Australian, Canadian, French, New Zealand, South African Indian and U.S Forces.

Page  27  Claremen in the Irish Regiments -Royal Munster Fusiliers, the Royal Irish Regiment, the Royal Irish Rifles, the Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers, the Leinster Regiment, the Connaught Rangers, the Royal Irish Fusiliers, the Royal Dublin Fusiliers, the Irish Guards. Claremen in English, Scottish and Welsh Regiments, the British Navy and the Merchant Navy.

Page  71  Claremen and women in the Royal Flying Corps, the Tank Corps, the Artillery, the Machine Gun Corps, the Cavalry, the Medical Corps, the Veterinary Corps, the Royal Engineers, the Army Service Corps, the Labour Battalion, Chaplains from Clare and Clarewomen in WW1.

Page  96  Claremen who died in Etreux, Rue du Bois, Ypres and Flanders, Gallipoli, Loos, on the Somme, Salonika and Mesopotamia.

Page 108  Claremen and women who died on the RMS Leinster, the Lusitania, Prisoners of War, Shellshock, Clare Brothers in Arms, Executed at Dawn, Clare Politicians, Courtmartialed and other awards won by Claremen.

The new Great War Memorial in Ennis Co Clare with over 680 names.
Australia

For Australia, as for many nations, the First World War remains the most costly conflict in terms of deaths and casualties. From a population of fewer than five million, 416,809 men enlisted, of which over 60,000 were killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner. (One in four of Australia’s WW1 soldiers were of Irish descent.)

At least 210 Claremen served in the Australian Imperial Force in WW1. 41 Died.

New Zealand

The total number of New Zealand troops and nurses to serve overseas in 1914–18, excluding those in British and other Dominion forces, was 100,444, from a population of just over a million. 16,697 New Zealanders were killed and 41,317 were wounded during the war.

At least 10 Claremen served in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in WW1. 8 Died.

Canada

Canadian Red Ensign flag used (1868–1921) This flag was flown during the First World War at Vimy Ridge, Lens, Hill 70, and Passchendaele in 1917. Canada's total casualties stood at the end of the war at 67,000 killed and 250,000 wounded, out of an expeditionary force of 620,000 people mobilized (39% of mobilized were casualties). Population of Canada 8 Million.

At least 137 Claremen served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in WW1. 14 Died.
All Australian except those marked (NZ) and (Canada)

**Ballyvaughan:** John Howard MM, Thomas Howard, James O’Donohue, Patrick O’Loughlin, Patrick Joseph O’Loughlin, Patrick Mannix (NZ), Thomas Michael Ryan (Canada).

**Bodyke:** Thomas Stuart.

**Bridgetown:** Pte John Joseph Hickey.

**Broadford:** Michael Cooney, Donat Maloney (Canada), Edward Moloney (Canada), Patrick O’Keefe (NZ), James Toohey.

**Carrigaholt:** Michael Behan.

**Clarecastle:** Michael Carrigg (NZ), Arthur Francis Desborough, Thomas Howe (Canada), Francis Benedict MacMaster (Canada), Trooper Joseph H McMaster.

**Clonlara:** Patrick Joseph Burke.

**Cooraclare:** Michael Joseph Breen, William Brock (NZ), Edmund Considine (NZ), Tom Considine, William Considine, James Francis Chambers (NZ), Michael J Ryan (Canada), Thomas Michael Ryan (Canada).

**Corkscrew Hill:** Patrick Joseph O’Loughlin/O’Loughlen.

**Corofin:** Thomas Curtin, Patrick Moroney, Robert O’Loughlin, Henry James O’Loughlin.

**Crusheen:** Michael Mangan.

**Doolin:** Joseph Patrick Conole (Canada).

**Doonbeg:** James Joseph Keane (Canada), Thomas McNamara, Thomas O’Brien.

**Doora:** John Lynch.

**Sgt J Slattery:** Henry Street, Kilrush, Canadian Army. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and a sum of £20 in May 1915.

‘During an attack he led a flanking party which rushed an enemy pill box. He personally shot eight of the defenders, and succeeded in cutting off a party of the enemy that were retreating. The success of the enterprise was largely due to him.’
Ennis: Peter Joseph Barry (Canada), Daniel Joseph Burke (Canada), Edmund Gerard Burke, William Byrne, Thomas James Callahan, Patrick Coughfield, Patrick Joseph Chambers (Canada), Michael Cleary, Charles Byers Coates, Henry Coffey, Joseph Collins (Canada), Michael Francis Considine (Canada), William Corbett, Robert Stewart Cranmer, Thomas Heppel Crowe (Canada), Edward Patrick Cullinan (Canada), Peter Curtin (Canada), John Michael Daly, Thomas Donnellen, William Henry, Doyne, Thomas Duggan, Charles Dundas (Canada), Daniel Dundras (Canada), Michael Fitzgibbon, John Frawley, Michael Francis Gutherie (Canada), Peter Joseph Healy, Martin Hennessy, Michael George Hickey, Mark Linneen, Thomas Linnan (Canada), John Lynch, Sister Margaret Mary MacInerney, James Patrick Maloney, Thomas Mangan, Patrick McCarthy, Michael John McCormack, John McDonagh, Michael McGrath (Canada), Anthony McInerney (Canada), Francis William McInerney, Francis William McInerney, James McNamara, James Edward Moloney (NZ), James Vincent Molony, John Moloney, Walter Thomas Monaghan, Francis Joseph Moroney, Michael Mullins, Patrick Mungovan (Canada), Michael James Nugent (Canada), John O’Loughlin, Patrick Joseph Pyne (Canada), Cornelius Quinn, Patrick Quinn (Canada), John Ranahan, James Ronan, George Patrick Scales, William George Sharpe, Michael Sheedy, John Patrick Sheehan (Canada), John Joseph Stack (Canada), Patrick Studdert (Canada), Jeremiah Tamblyn, Rev J.H. Thomas (Canada), John Tuttle, Michael John Tuttle, Patrick Thomas Wall (Canada), William Warren (Canada), John White, Thomas York (Canada).

Ennistymon: Patrick Barrington (Canada), John Conway (Canada), Thomas Patrick Davis (Canada), John Francis Dwyer, Patrick Hannabury, Dugald Robert Johnson (Canada), John McDonagh, Michael McDonagh, Thomas Naylon, James Daniel O’Connor, Patrick O’Connor (Canada), John Albert O’Dwyer, Paul O’Loughlin (Canada), Steven Reynolds (Canada), Patrick Riordan, John Joseph Sullivan (Canada), William White. Flagmount: John Kiely.

**John Howard MM:** Ballyvaughan. Australian Army. Joined in May 1916. On 27/2/1919 he was awarded the **Military Medal** for bravery in the field. (Guss O’Halloran)

**Sergeant Richard Samel Welsh MSM (Meritorious Service Medal):**
Kilrush. Australian Imperial Force. **(AI)** He was a Machinist aged 34 when he enlisted in 1914 in Morphettville SA into the 16th Bn. 1341. His brother was Andrew Welsh NSW. **(UNSW)**
The Anzac’s and Canadians from Clare in WW1

Inch: Thomas Donnellan, Martin Murphy (Canada), P. J. Murphy (Canada).

Inagh: Private Patrick Barry, Patrick Rynne.

Kildysart: James Crowley (Canada), M Fitzgerald, Edward Thomas Macmahon (Canada), John Joseph Mescall (Canada), Patrick Ryan O’Connor (Canada).

Kilfenora: John Davern, Joseph Power.

Kilkee: Francis Dalzell Evatt Acklom, Patrick Bahen, Michael Carroll (Canada), Michael Daley, Edward J Falloon, James Charles Gleeson, James Joseph Green (Canada), Michael Green (Canada), Cornelius Connor Kane (Canada), John Patrick Keane (Canada), John J Keane (Canada), Richard McDonnell, Michael O’Neil/O’Neill, Theodore Studdert (Canada), Frank Augustine Troy (Canada), Frederick Varlow (Canada), Jock Wallis (Canada), Jock Wallis (Canada), Edward Walsh (Canada).

Kilkishen: James Driscoll (Canada).


Killimer: John Michael Nolan.


Kilmihil: Michael Downes, Morgan Crowe, Frank O’Gorman (Canada).

Kilnamona: Patrick Barry.

Michael Joseph Breen MID: Cooraclare, died of gunshot wounds to the back on the 14th Sept 1916 at Pozieres, age 41, Australian Imperial Force, G/M in England. Mentioned in Despatches for gallant conduct. Breen was also recommended for the Military Medal.

Michael Breen: He was a labourer aged 34 when he enlisted in Feb 1915 in Brisbane into the 25th Bn. 312. His brother was Patrick J Breen was in the RMF. In Oct 1915 in Gallipoli he was ‘complimented as rendering good service by staunchly remaining at his post with a supply of bombs ready for use when required by the patrol.’, He was sentenced to penal servitude for life 16th July 1916 for discharging his rifle and striking a Superior Officer. This was remitted after he was recommended for the Military Medal for his good work at Armentieres and Messines. His wife lived in Lismore NSW. (UNSW)
**The Anzac’s and Canadians from Clare in WW1**

**Kilrush:** Nicholas Barry, Pat Blake, Private Bob Bolger (Same as Edward Bolger and Philip Bolger), James Brassill (Canada), Michael Breene, John George Brew, John Francis Browne, Margaret Burke, Jack Clancy, Edward Wm Cronhelm (Canada), Sinon Culligan (Canada), Michael Dillon, John Dolan (Canada), John William Donohue, Jack Downes, Patrick Joseph Duggan, T Duggan (Canada), Michael Dwyer, Michael Flynn (Canada), Dan Garry, Leonard Foley (Canada), John Francis Gavin, James Thomas Gleeson, John Gorman, Michael Gorman, Patrick Joseph Hayes, John Francis Howard, John Keane, John Kendrick, Charles Mack (Canada), John Martin Malone, Patrick Mahoney (Canada), DI Mara, John McDonnell, Martin McGrath (Canada), Michael McGrath (Canada), Anthony McNerney (Canada), Patrick James McKivett, Frank McMahon, John McMahon, James Mitchell (Canada), Simon Moloney, John Muldowney, Daniel Nash, Robert Joseph O’Brien, Patrick O’Connell (Canada), Michael Joseph O’Dea, John Joseph O’Flaherty, Thomas Connolly O’Flaherty, Patrick O’Flaherty, Martin Quinlivan, John Fitzgerald Studdert Redmayne (Canada), Private Paddy Reidy, Peter Reynolds, Peter Reynolds, John Shea (Canada), Daniel Sheedy, M Slattery (Canada), John Slattery DCM (Canada), Patricia Stephens, John Herbert Studdert, Michael Sullivan, Marty Tubridy, Charles A Walker (Canada), Thomas Walsh, Richard Samuel Welsh.

**Kilshanny:** Thomas Neylon/Naylon, Michael Ronan.

**Labasheeda:** Willaim Joseph McMahon.

**Lahinch:** John Joseph Fitzpatrick (Canada), Dan Franklin (Canada), Daniel Neylon.

**Liscannor:** Private William Barrett (Canada) WilliamBaines, Patrick McDonough.

**Lisdoonvarna:** Austin Augustus Kilmartin, Patrick Lynch.

**Meelick:** Thomas Ringrose.

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**Fr Francis Clune MC MID:** Born in Ruan and lived in Marrickville New South Wales Australia. ‘On 20th September at Bellewaarde Ridge N.E. of Hooge Chaplain Captain Francis Clune was at the dressing post. The post was being heavily shelled and a number of wounded were accumulating. Under heavy fire Captain Clune regardless of personal risk stood by the wounded, giving a hand with the dressing and ministering to their needs in a manner which inspired confidence in all during this trying time. This work was performed in the open, after the Cupola Dressing Post had been destroyed and despite the heavy shelling, which continued for over an hour. Father Clune has always shown magnificent devotion in action and under fire and notably so near Bullecourt in May 1917.’(Australian Chaplains in WW1)

He was Mentioned in Despatches in Jan 1917 and was awarded the Military Cross in Jan 1918 for ‘conspicuous bravery.’ He was aged 48.
The Anzac’s and Canadians from Clare in WW1

Miltown Malbay: Private Patrick Joseph Behan Thomas Corry (Canada), Martin Crowe (Canada), John Dwyer, Patrick Joseph Hillery, Michael Joseph Howard, John McDonough, Michael Morrissey (Canada), Michael Joseph Murray, John O’Dwyer, Michael O’Loughlin, Thomas Patrick O’Malley, Martin Tierney (Canada).

Mountshannon: Henrietta Joan Turner.

Mullagh: Lt Thomas J Lee DCM, Peter Joseph O’Connor.


Ogonnelloe: Martin O’Dell. Querrin: Martin Crowe (Canada).


Ruan: Fr Francis Clune, Rev. Patrick Joseph Clune, John Dillon (Canada), Patrick Joseph Kelly (Canada), Miss Tierney.


Private Philip Edeward Bolger DCM (also known as John, Edward, or Bob): Kilrush. Australian Imperial Force. **He was Awarded the DCM on the 8th Nov 1918.** ‘For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He rushed a machine-gun post single-handed, and despatched five of the team with the bayonet. When the remaining man endeavoured to train the machine gun on him he slewed it round, though his hand was shattered in doing so, and grappled with the enemy, whom he killed. He then dismounted the gun, which he carried with him to the R.A.P., where he was ordered to proceed. His gallant and determined action at a critical moment enabled our advance to proceed with few casualties.’ London Gazette 30th Oct 1918.

Miss Tierney: Ruan. On the staff of the Australian Red Cross. As a special mark of distinction in April 1918 she was made a ‘Lieutenant’. Her father and brother are also served in the forces. *(SR)*
The Anzac’s and Canadians from Clare in WW1


Lance Corporal Thomas Howard MM: Ballyvaughan. Australian Imperial Force. (AI) He was a Police Officer aged 24 when he enlisted in May 1916 in Toowoomba Queensland into the 11th Depot Bn. 7266 (and later the 9th Bn.). He served in Egypt and in France, where he was wounded in action in Aug 1918 (gun shot wound to the left knee). He was awarded the Military Medal in Aug 1918. His mother was Bridget Howard, Derrynavaha, Murrough Ballyvaughan. (UNSW) John Howard MM: Ballyvaughan. Joined in May 1916. On 27/2/1919 he was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in the field. (Guss O’Halloran)
Claremen in the French Army

**John (Jack) Joseph Barrett**: Clarecastle, killed in action 20\(^{th}\) April 1917, French Army, G/M in France. He saw service during the 1916 Somme battle (including the **famous assault on Belloy en Santerre on 4th July 1916**). Transferred to the 3e Battalion **RMLE** (possibly following promotion to corporal after the Somme battle). He died when advancing at the head of his squad of riflemen on assault of a heavily defended trench. **He was awarded the Croix de Guerre with Silver Star.** He is buried in the Necrople Nationale of Le Bois du Puits, just off the D931 east of Reims. (TB)

Claremen in the South African Army

Over 9,000 South African soldiers were killed in WW1.

**Dr John (Jack) Dowling**: Ballynacally, died Oct 1918, South African Medical Corps, G/M in South Africa.

**Eugene McInerney**: Kilrush, South African Army.

Claremen in the Indian Army

Over 74,000 Indian soldiers were killed in WW1. **George Wyndham Maunsell**: Clarecastle, died Feb 1917 age 28, Indian Army Reserve of Officers, Grave/Memorial in Iraq. **AS MacLachan**: Kilrush, Indian Army. **Captain Annesley St. George Gore**: Derrymore. Gurkhas. He was reported unofficially as having fallen in action. He first joined the Royal Irish Regiment at Rawal Pindi, and afterwards the 10th Mahratta Light Infantry (Gurkhas).
John J. Pershing had nearly two million men under his command (4 million in reserve).

Pershing kept the American forces independent and refused to allow American soldiers on the front line before they were fully trained. However, 116,516 US soldiers still lost their lives. Over 32% of the US Army was of Irish descent.

- There were over 375 Clare men who served with the US Forces in WW1.
- 39 Claremen died in the U.S. Forces, during or just after the war.
- Claremen fought with the following 33 US Infantry Divisions: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, 12th, 20th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 35th, 37th, 41st, 42nd, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 85th, 87th, 90th and 91st.
- They were also in the Ambulance Service and Hospital Corps, Ammunition Trains, Cavalry, Chaplains, Corps of Engineers, Depots, Motor Transport Corps, Ordnance Corps, Signal Corps, Spruce production Division, Training Camps, Red Cross, US Army Battery, US Coast Artillery, US Forts and US Navy.

The Distinguished Service Cross was presented to Frank P. Gordon, Clarecastle, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Seicheprey, France, April 20, 1918.

‘He lost his life when he went out to rescue a Stamford companion named Wilson who had both his legs blown off. Gordon went out to carry him in when a shell took off one of his arms and the two men dropped to the ground and died moments later’. When found, Wilson still had his arm around Gordon’s neck. Gordon’s father worked in the Ordnance House in Ennis.

Corporal, U.S. Army Battery E, 103d Field Artillery, 26th Division, A.E.F.
Date of Action: April 20, 1918

Citation: The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Frank P. Gordon, Corporal, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Seicheprey, France, April 20, 1918. Corporal Gordon displayed conspicuous courage in voluntarily going to the aid of a wounded comrade during which action he and the man he was assisting were killed.
The Battles that the U.S. Forces fought in 1917 & 1918.

3. April 9-27, 1918 - The Lys Operation.
5. May 28-31, 1918 - The Battle of Cantigny. (5,163)
6. June 3-June 4, 1918 - The Battle of Chateau-Thierry.
7. June 6-26, 1918 - The Battle of Belleau Wood. (8,400)
10. July 15-18, 1918 - The Champagne-Marne Operation
11. July 18-August 6, 1918 - The Aisne-Marne Operation. (38,490)
12. August 7-November 11, 1918 - The Oisne-Aisne Operation. (2,767)
14. October 24-November 4, 1918 - The Vittorio Veneto.
15. August 8-November 11, 1918 - The Somme Offensive. (15,034)
16. September 12-16, 1918 - The St. Mihiel Operation. (8,600)
17. September 26-November 11, 1918 - The Meuse-Argonne Offensive. (110,508)

15th June 1917 Perishing lands in France.
Claremen in the U.S. Army

**Ballyvaughan:** Sergeant John F Doyle.  **Bodyke:** 1st Sergeant John H Burke, Corporal Dennis O'Keefe.


**Bunratty:** Seaman 2nd Class Patrick Joseph McMahon.

**Burren:** John Fahy, Rodger J Fahy, Corporal Thomas Hynes, Captain Christopher Killikelly.

**Carrigaholt:** Sergeant John Ginnane, Charles McGrath, Private First Class Joseph Quinlan.

**Clarecastle-Ballyea:** Sergeant 1st Class Peter Fitzpatrick, David Gallery’ Corporal Francis Patrick Gordon DSC, Private Patrick Joseph Moloney, Thomas Sheehan.

**Clooney-Quin:** Edmond (Eddie) Ireton.  **Coroacleare:** Bernard Breen. General Martin Meaney

**Corofin:** John J Considine, Captain Michael Kelly.

**Cranny:** John Meaney.  **Cratloe:** Wagoner John F McInerney

**Cree:** Thomas Andrew Cunningham, General Martin Meaney, Capt Martin Meaney.

**Cross:** Denis McInerney, John Naughton.  **Crusheen:** Private Edward Fahey, Patrick Joseph O’Neil.

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On September 26, 1918 nine American divisions began the first assault along a twenty-four mile front from the Argonne Forest to the Meuse River—about 150 miles east of Paris. The intense fighting caused heavy losses on both sides, but American forces had penetrated the formidable defenses of the “Hindenburg Line” by October 11.

**Citation:** The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pleasure in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross to Sergeant Cornelius J. O'Brien (ASN: 568759), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with Company E, 2d Engineers, 4th Division, A.E.F., near Ville-Savoye, France, 11 August 1918. While engaged on the construction of a bridge over the Valle River, Sergeant O'Brien voluntarily left shelter during intense fire and carried one of his wounded officers through a heavy machine-gun and artillery barrage to a dressing station. Action Date: 11-Aug-18.
Claremen in the U.S. Army

**Doolin:** Austin J. Flanagan, Michael Maloney, William O’Brien, John Joseph Sammon.

**Doonbeg:** Private Patrick Dillon, Private Martin Haugh, Mick Killeen, Michael Joseph McNerney, Private Patrick J McNamara.

**Doora:** 1st Lt. William Francis Cahill.


**Feakle:** Private First Class Dennis M Conway, Sergeant John Grady, Private Patrick J O’Dea, Robert H Smyth.

**Inagh:** Private 1st Class Michael Cleary.

**Kilbaha:** Sergeant Patrick J Crotty.

**Kildysart:** John Finucane, James Hodge.

**Kilfenora:** Thomas J Considine, T J O’Donoghue, Austin Francis O’Hare.


**Killaloe:** Christopher Malone, Private John Scanlan.

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**Captain Thomas Henry DSC:** Born in Co Clare 6th April 1890. Lived in New York City. He was aged 27 when he enlisted on the 27th Nov 1917 into the 28th Infantry. He served abroad from Jan 1918 to Sept 1919. He fought at Montdidier-Noyon, Aisne-Marne, Meuse Argonne. He was wounded in action on the 18th July 1918. He was awarded the DSC for gallantry and extraordinary heroism on the 18th July 1918. (New York, Abstracts of National Guard Service in WWI, 1917-1919)

**Citation:**

**The Distinguished Service Cross** is presented to Thomas Henry, First Lieutenant, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism in action near Soissons, France, July 18, 1918. Lieutenant Henry gallantly led his platoon forward through heavy machine-gun fire in an attack on a strongly held enemy position. Due to his initiative and gallantry, two enemy machine guns were captured and 25 of the enemy forced to surrender. Later, when wounded, he refused to be evacuated until, through loss of blood, he could go no farther.
Claremen in the U.S. Army

**Kilmaley/Connolly:** Corporal John J Cleary, Private John T Doohan, Patrick Eustace, Corporal Richard Eustace, Corporal John J Murphy.


**Kilmurry/Ibrickane:** Private First Class Patrick Thomas Haugh, Danny McCarthy.

**Kilmurry-McMahon:** Private John J Fitzgerald. **Kilnamona:** James J Cullinan.


**Kilshanny:** Private 1st Class Austin J Greene. **Knock:** Corporal Thomas Lynch, Private James Madigan.

**Labasheeda:** Private Sinon Edward Callanan. **Lahinch:** 2nd Lieutenant John J Barrett.

**Lissycasey:** Private John O’Rourke. **Meelick:** William Ringrose.

**David Gallery:** Ballybeg Ennis. A driver in the US Army in France. In Feb 1919 he was awarded the French Military Medal. On June 9th 1918 he drove his ambulance to the entrance of a dressing station ‘in spite of the volleys of machine gun bullets fired from an advanced position. He loaded his ambulance with the regulation number of wounded (3), seated 3 at his side, and placed another on board the engine’. He drove away with ‘imperturbable calm’. Moments later the station was captured by the Germans. Died 1966 aged 78.

‘He was decorated three times, having received the Croix de Guerre twice, and having been recommended for the Distinguished Service Cross.’ Clare Champion Aug 1919.
Claremen in the U.S. Army


Quilty: Private Bartholomew Cunningham. Quin: Private Francis M O’Grady.


U.S. Silver Star Citation

The "Citation Star" was a 3/16" silver star "placed" on the suspension ribbon and service ribbon of the World War I Victory Medal to denote a Citation (certificate) for "Gallantry In Action". It was awarded to a soldier or to a Marine attached to the American Expeditionary Force after he was officially cited in orders.

James J Cullinan: Kilnamona. 165th Infantry, US Army. He was awarded the Silver Star Citation for gallantry, for bravery during an attack at Laundreset-St. Georges in France in October 1918.

Corporal Thomas Considine: Born about 1893 in Co Clare. He was aged 24 and living in Buffalo New York, when he enlisted on the 26th Sept 1917 into Co B 309th Infantry’ then Co 1 4 Prov Rct Bn and later Co B 18th Infantry 237977. He served overseas from Jan 1918 to Sept 1919. He fought at Cantigny, Montdidier-Neyon, Aisne-Marne, Meuse-Argonne, and was wounded severely about July 1918. He was Cited (for bravery with the 18th Infantry) in Sec 3 Par GO 5 1st Infantry Brigade on the 6th Jan 1919. (New York, Abstracts of World War I Military Service, 1917-1919)
Corporal James O’Connor: Born in Co Clare about 1895. Lived in New York City. He was aged 22 when he enlisted on the 5th June 1917 into the 69th Infantry I Company 91120. He served overseas from Oct 1917 to April 1919. He was wounded slightly in Nov 1918. He was Cited in Sec/Par b of GO 5 1st Infantry on the 6th Jan 1919. He was Awarded the Italian Croce di Guerra. (New York, Abstracts of National Guard Service in WWI, 1917-1919)

The Italian War Merit Cross (Italian: Croce al Merito di Guerra) was instituted by King Victor Emanuel III on 19 January 1918.

It was awarded to members of the armed forces with a minimum of one year’s service in contact with an enemy who received the Medal of the Wounded, or to those who, when mentioned for war merit, received a promotion. Also, if an act of valour was deemed insufficient for the Medal of Military Valour, the War Merit Cross could be awarded instead.
The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the armed forces of the U.S. who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. It is specifically a combat decoration.


The U.S. Distinguished Service Cross is the second highest military award that can be given to a member of the United States Army, for extreme gallantry and risk of life in actual combat with an armed enemy force. Actions that merit the Distinguished Service Cross must be of such a high degree that they are above those required for all other U.S. combat decorations but do not meet the criteria for the Medal of Honor.
Claremen in the U.S. Army

Co Clare:
Corporal Thomas McInerney, Mechanic James J McMahon, Private 1st Class John McMahon, Corporal Martin McMahon, Corporal Timothy McMahon, Private 1st Class Cornelius G McNamara, Private Patrick McNamara, Private John McTigue, Private Thomas Meade, Sergeant John Meaney, Patrick Joseph Meaney, Private 1st Class John P Meehan, Private 1st Class John J Mescall, Private Martin Mescall, Private 1st Class Alphonsus Millane, Private Joseph Millane, Captain James Blaine Miller, Corporal Martin F Molloy, Seaman Patrick Joseph Moroney, Private Thomas Morrissy, Private William Morrissy, Saddler James Murphy, J Murphy, Private 1st Class John F Murphy, Michael Murphy, 1st Sergeant Patrick J Murphy, Corporal John P Naughton, Private John O’Brien, Private Charles Daniel O’Connell, Corporal James O’Connor, Private


Special Mention & Promotions

James Hodge: Kildysart. He was Chief Water Tender on the USS Mount Vernon. U.S. Navy, when it was torpedoed by an enemy submarine at 7.55am Sept 5th 1918. The entire crew were commended for saving the ship and bringing it back safely to port. Hodge received special mention from U.S. Secretary Daniels ‘for quickly effecting the necessary changes and his cool action, and the fine example set for the men to follow.’

Robert Lawrence AGD: Kilrush. Adjutant General of the US Army in France. He has several decorations and was promoted from Captain to Major and then to Adjutant General of the 6th Division ‘for signal bravery and dash’. He had a thriving law practice in New York before the war. He visited Kilrush in March 1919. (SR)
Awards and Medals won by Claremen in the U.S. Forces

**US WW1 Victory Medal**
For military service members who performed military service at St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Defensive sector with 3 star ribbon bar.

*Awarded to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 26th, 42nd, 80th, 89th Divisions.*

**US WW1 Victory Medal**
For military service members who performed military service at Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne and Defensive sector with 4 battle star ribbon.

*Awarded to the 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 26th Divisions.*

**US WW1 Victory Medal**
For military service members who performed military service at Aisne, Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne and Defensive sector with service ribbon & 4 stars.

*Awarded to the 3rd Division.*

**US WW1 Victory Medal**
France bar & Maltese Cross issued to soldiers attached to AEF but who were not eligible for any battle clasps.

*Awarded to the 34th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 76th, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, & 87th Divisions.*
Private Dennis Liddane from Rehy in Kilkee, who emigrated to the United States when he was 18 years of age, died in the Meuse-Argonne sector of the Western Front on October 10, 1918. He served in the same Division and fought alongside Sgt. Alvin York, the most decorated American soldier of World War One. He was buried in the Meuse-Argonne Cemetery, the largest American Cemetery in Europe, with 14,200 other War Dead.
It also produced Father Francis Duffy, "The Fighting Chaplain". In France, Duffy was always seen in the thick of battle, assisting the litter bearers in recovering the wounded, administering last rites, burying the dead, and encouraging the men, while unarmed, and at great risk to his own life. His bravery and inspired leadership was so great that at one point the brigade commander, General Douglas MacArthur, even considered making him the regimental commander, an unheard of role for a chaplain. His decorations included the Distinguished Service Cross and the Distinguished Service Medal.

"No greater fighting regiment has ever existed than the 165th Infantry of the Rainbow Division formed by the old 69th Regiment of New York," claimed General Douglas MacArthur of the very regiment he chose to represent New York State in a purpose built shock division that was formed from the cream of the US National Guard in WWI. It is known as the "Fighting Sixty-Ninth", a name said to have been given to it by Robert E. Lee during the Civil War. It was sent to France in October 1917 and was involved in some of the bitterest fighting of the war- Lorraine, Champagne-Marne, Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel and the Meuse Argonne. Total casualties of the regiment amounted to 644 killed in action and 2,587 wounded (200 of whom would later die of their wounds) during 164 days of front-line combat. Sixty members earned the Distinguished Service Cross and three of its members were awarded the Medal of Honor.

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John Fahy: "My grandfather John Fahy from Finnavara served in the US 165th (the old fighting 69th) in WW1. He is standing 2nd from right. John left Ireland in 1915. His brother Rodger (see below) left Ireland in 1913. (John Fay)."
Private First Class Timothy Donnellan

Private 1st Class Timothy Donnellan: Born in Co Clare. He was aged 21 when he enlisted in the US Army 69 Infantry 90514 (42nd Div) in June 1917. He lived in New York City. He served overseas from Oct 1917 and was killed in action on the 3rd May 1918. G/M unknown. Next of kin was Brother in Law Thomas Loonam. Over the last few hundred years, New York City has designated 54 honorary Squares. Only seven of them were named after War Heroes. Donnellan Square, New York, was named after Timothy Donnellan.

Designed by Gail Wittwer and completed in 2002, the enlarged park now lies between St. Nicholas Avenue and St. Nicholas Place, from 150th Street to just below 149th Street. Fourteen benches stand within the park, and because Donnellan Square falls in a historic district its three new lampposts are replicas of an old-fashion style.

‘This square honors Private First Class Timothy Donnellan (d. 1918), a local resident who died in World War I. Donnellan arrived in the United States from Ireland in 1916 and enlisted in the 69th New York Regiment from which the Army formed the 165th U.S. Infantry of the famous Rainbow Division.

On June 1, 1918, Donnellan's sister, Mrs. Thomas Loonan, received a letter stating that her brother had been killed defending his post on May 30. On the same day, she received a letter from Donnellan, written a few days before his death. He reported that he was in good health and eager to face the enemy. He also reported that his chaplain, Father Duffy, a New York hero and namesake of Duffy Square, opposite of Times Square, was well. In the same batch of mail were letters from Donnellan’s friends, attesting that he had fought like a hero and died at his post’.
From the Chapel Gates of Cooraclare to the plot to seize America - the story of Brigadier General Martin Meaney (Daniel McCarthy)

“No greater fighting regiment has ever existed than the 165th Infantry of the Rainbow Division formed by the old 69th Regiment of New York,” claimed General Douglas MacArthur of the very regiment he chose to represent New York State in a purpose built shock division that was formed from the cream of the US National Guard in WWI.

In WWI, it was called into active service in 1917 and was engaged in some of the heaviest fighting of the war – Lorraine, Champagne-Marne, St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne. Amongst their number was a young Irishman, Martin Meaney who was to retire as a highly honored Brigadier General of the regiment itself with service given in three wars.

It was the venerable Gerry Regan at the neighboring parish of www.thewildgeese.com fame who first gave the heads up to the Celtic Times many moons ago about the intriguing life this fascinating soldier led. The real introductory eye opener was the reference to Meaney’s involvement in the famous trial of the Christian Front in 1940 prior to the US entry into WWII as a leader of a proposed coup that was to place a “ring of steel” around Washington DC to combat an anticipated communist revolution.

Company M of the 3rd “Shamrock” battalion was led by Captain Martin Meaney, a native of Cree, Co. Clare. Meaney had already served as a private in the Mexican border war in 1916 where he was promoted to sergeant.

Only eight years previously he had emigrated as a 19-year-old from the family farm in the west of Ireland, taking up a job in a leading New York department store, James McCreery and Company, where he became head clothes buyer. Meaney was to lead the Shamrock Battalion in putting up one of the most heroic fights of the Great War at the Battle of the Ourcq. Meaney’s company and Company K had suffered a three-day bombardment with mustard gas shells, resulting in the blinding of over 400 men who were just after celebrating St Patrick’s Day in the trenches in 1918. A few months later, on 28th July 1918, the Irish American regiment engaged the German forces on the River Ourcq, advancing without the normal preliminary artillery bombardment. They forced a river crossing and fought alone with exposed flanks on the enemy’s side of the river against withering machine-gun fire. The Shamrock battalion was in the eye of the storm, suffering heavy casualties, amongst them Sergeant Joyce Kilmer, renowned poet and author of the ballad “Trees”, who was killed in action.

It was at this juncture that the whole of the battalion came under the command of Captain Martin Meaney. Meaney led them in the last attack that broke the German resistance which included the elite Fourth Prussian Guard Division under the Kaiser’s son Prince Ethel Frederick. This victory was widely acclaimed as a great feat of arms. The newly promoted Meaney was to be gassed and twice wounded become emerging as a major at the war’s end.

Meaney gave distinguished service to the NYPD in both the interwar and post war period, serving initially under the La Guardia administration. He achieved the rank of deputy commissioner. During the interwar years he married his wife Anna Stewart in 1921, and they had two sons and four daughters.

It was during the extremely controversial April 1940 Federal Court trial of the Christian Front “Sporting Club” that Meaney was pitched back into the national spotlight again. Amongst the stunning allegations made by the FBI witness was that Meaney was to become a leader of a counter-revolutionary right-wing plot to place a ‘ring of steel’ around Washington D.C. to combat an anticipated communist revolution.

It was alleged that large numbers of policemen, firemen, military and naval members had joined the anti-Semitic, anti-communist Christian Front movement which by the fall of 1939 had claimed a membership of tens of thousands and was “growing in leaps and bounds”. The case had all the trappings of a Philip Roth plot or Peter Quinn’s captivating “The Hour of the Cat”.

Commissioner Meaney denied any knowledge of the matter, was not called to trial and the case was eventually dismissed as the United states became embroiled in a new World War. His military service was reactivated and he served in the Pacific and European theatres.

Upon his military deactivation in 1945 he resumed his commissioner posting until his retirement in 1958. Martin Meaney, who lived in Flatbush, Brooklyn with his family after the war, was a highly decorated soldier, including being the recipient of the Purple Heart. He had previously received a personal citation from General ‘Blackjack’ Pershing. Meaney’s soft voice and gentle mien belied a distinguished military career which saw the rise of a County Clare farm boy to the rank of Brigadier General in the US army.
The 77th US Infantry Division

Perhaps the greatest number of Irishmen served with the 77th Division, which was drawn from New York and was often called the “Liberty Division.” They are also a reminder that although those Irish who served from Ireland in the war were all regulars or volunteers, many of the Irish who went to the front as doughboys were conscripted. There were three main types of American divisions during the war—the Regular Army Divisions, made up of professional soldiers, the National Guard Divisions (such as the 42nd Division of which the 69th New York was a part) and the National Army Divisions, which was made up of men inducted into the military by draft boards. The 77th Division was one of the latter, and was the first National Army Division to go to Europe (77th Division Association 1919: 7). So many Irish served in the 77th Division that the regimental history carried a cartoon of the Irishmen’s reactions upon seeing the coast of Ireland while the troops traveled to Europe—and war—in 1917. (midletonheritage.com)
Approximately 4,000 Claremen enlisted in WW1.

The Irish Regiments that Claremen fought in:

Approximately **810 Claremen** served in the Royal Munster Fusiliers in WW1. Enclosed in 3 other documents are the details on over **664** of these Claremen. **150** in the 1st Bn, **185** in the 2nd Bn, **217** in the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions, and another **112** Battalion unknown. At least **184** Claremen died with the Royal Munster Fusiliers in WW1.

**The 1st Battalion** landed at Gallipoli, Turkey, on the 25th of April, 1915, and remained there until the following January. It arrived on the Western Front in April, 1916, where it remained until the end of the war.

At least **69 Claremen** died during combat or from wounds fighting with the **1st Battalion** Royal Munster Fusiliers during WW1. Another **40** were reported wounded in Clare newspapers. In another document are details of over **150 Claremen** and the battles they fought in Gallipoli, Loos, at the Somme, Messines, Passchendaele, Cambrai, the German Offensive and the Advance to Victory with the **1st Battalion** of the Royal Munster Fusiliers.

**The 2nd Battalion** landed in France on the 13th of August, 1914, and remained on the Western Front until the end of the war.

At least **68 Claremen** died during combat or from wounds fighting with the **2nd Battalion** Royal Munster Fusiliers during WW1. At least another **31** were reported wounded in Clare newspapers. **52** were reported to be POW's in Clare newspapers. See details of over **185 Claremen** and the battles they fought in, including the Retreat From Mons, the 1st Battle of Ypres, the Defense of Givenchy, the Battles of Aubers Ridge and Loos, the Somme, Passchendaele, the German Offensive and the final advances of 1918.

**The 3rd, 4th and 5th** were Reserve Battalions and not in combat. They did however provide soldiers for the combat Battalions. **The 6th and 7th Battalions** landed in Suvla Bay on the 7th August 1915, and later fought in Salonica and Palestine. **The 8th and 9th Battalions** landed in France in Dec 1915.

**36 Claremen** were killed in action or died of wounds, and **11 more died of other causes** with the **3rd to 9th Battalions** of the Royal Munster Fusiliers during WW1. At least **59** were reported wounded in Clare newspapers, with **5 more reported to be POW's.** See details of over **217 Claremen** in the 3rd to 9th RMF and the battles they fought in that include Suvla Bay, Struma, Jerusalem, Hulluch, Loos, Guillemont and Ginchy.
Claremen in the Royal Munster Fusiliers

Ardnacrusha: Michael Purcell.
Ballyvaughan: Thomas Glynn, John Griffin, Stephen Hayes, John Keane, Austin Francis Ryan.
Barefield: John Hanrahan.
Bodyke: Patrick Ryan
Bunratty: James Brennan, Thomas Brennan, Thomas McInerney.
Carrigaholt: Lawrence Curtin, Denis Ginnane, Michael Kinsley, John Sullivan.
Clonlara: Patrick Boland, John Byrnes.
Corofin: Private Michael Bane, Patrick Carroll, Patrick Dillon, Patrick Hourigan, P Killon, Patrick McNamara, John Joseph Slattery, Sgt T Crowe, J Minehan, G Myles, D O’Halloran, Patrick Tierney.
Cratloe: Tom Bentley MM, William Bentley: Cratloe, died Nov 1918 age 27, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in France.
Crusheen: John Fogarty.
Doolin: John Woods, P Woods.
Dysart: Charles Sexton.

Lt Colonel Robert Romney Godred Kane DSO: Glendree Tulla, died 1st Oct 1918 age 29, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, G/M in France. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (8/11/15) and (Bar 1/1/19), the Chevalier Legion of Honour (9/10/15) and was Mentioned in Despatches (5/11/15). Son of Judge R R Kane and Eleanor Coffey, Dublin and Glendree Co Clare. ‘Entered army 1908. Joined 1st Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1908 at Rawalpindi, and served in India and Burma (where his sister also lived) until 1914. Present at the Gallipoli landings until 13 July 1915. Wounded in action 4 May 1915... Recreations, hunting, polo, big and small game hunting.’
From Who Was Who 1916-1930. In 1917 (TB)
Claremen in the Royal Munster Fusiliers


**Lance Corporal Terence McMahon MM:** Clarecastle. Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 16th Div. (5407 from the RMF Book) Wounded in Sept 1916 at Ginchy (at the Somme) where he was recommended for a Distinguished Conduct Medal. He had already been awarded the **Military Service Medal and a Parchment Certificate** ‘For courageous conduct while under fire during a charge on Ginchy.’ *(CJ)* In Oct 1916 he was also awarded **The Russian Cross of St George Second Class.** *(15/2/1917 in RMF Book)* This is one of the highest Russian honours and equivalent to the Victoria Cross. *(CJ)* See Clare Newspapers and WW1 pages 103 and 112.
Lieutenant Colonel William Francis Henn

Corporal Michael Butler DCM: Cloughleigh Ennis, died in April 1917. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd 8121. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (14/1/1916) for helping a comrade under heavy shell, maxim and rifle fire at Rue Du Bois in May 1915. (Clare Champion April 2016) He travelled close on 300 yards of ground...and he succeeded in getting his comrade to safety (in front of an enemy trench), but badly wounded. He did all he could to assist his comrade, for 3 hours while under terrible artillery fire. When dusk came on he brought his friend to the trenches, but unfortunately the wounded man died, and Sergeant Butler gained the DCM for that heroic deed'. (Clare Champion April 2016) He was recommended for the Victoria Cross. (PMcN) (RMF Book Capt McCance)
Kilrush: Thirty-six soldiers with strong Kilrush connections died serving with the RMF and they reflect the general pattern of deaths in the regiment, with 1915 being the worst year. Most died serving with the 2nd RMF, with the 1st Battalion not far behind and France was where the vast majority died, although half of the deaths for 1915 occurred at Gallipoli or in Macedonia. The worst single day of fatalities was on 9 May, 1915, which saw six Kilrush men killed in action in France, which together with the Gallipoli landings, resulted in that month being the worst overall.

### Claremen in the Royal Munster Fusiliers

**Meelick:** 2nd Lieutenant J C R Delmege, Thomas Markham, Michael McInerney.


**Mountshannon:** Michael Ward.

**Moyasta:** John O’Dea.

**Mullagh:** James Costello.


**O Brien’s Bridge:** Michael Griffin, Thomas Griffin, Michael Maloney/Moloney.

**O’Callaghan’s Mills:** Michael Hallinan.

**Parteen:** Patrick Hartigan, Martin Hayes

**Querrin:** Private John O’Shea.

**Scariff:** Pte John Dewar, J Dinan. Michael Magee/McGee.

**Quin:** J Fogarty, John Hourigan

**Ruan:** E Fitzgerald, Patrick Keane.

**Scariff:** Michael Dooley, John “Sacco” Downes, Daniel McNamara, Audy Wiley.

**Sixmilebridge:** Thomas Collins, M Reidy.

**Tuamgraney:** James Moloney

**Tulla:** Joseph Halvey, Robert Romney Godred Kane, Cornelius Kennedy, John Sheehan.

**Whitegate:** William McNamara/MacNamara.

Awards Won by Claremen with the RMF

**Colour-Sgt Major John Browne DCM:** The Turnpike Ennis, Clare. 2nd Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers 5736. Prisoner of War in Limburg March 1915. *(CJ) See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 28.* CSM John Browne: Ennis. He was a Labourer aged 18 when he enlisted in 1897 into the Royal Munster Fusiliers 5736. Sergeant Major John Browne: A POW who was supported by the the Co Clare POW Aid Fund Committee. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 5736. He was a POW in Nov 1917. *(SR) He was awarded the DCM on the 30th January 1920.


**Sergeant J Clancy DCM:** Kilkishen. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 5931. ‘During operations near Le Catelat on 4th October, 1918, he showed great gallantry and contempt for danger when his company was being much harassed by machine gun fire from a distance of about 400 yards. Entirely on his own initiative, and in company with only one man, he rushed forward under cover of a smoke bomb and charged the machine gun, killing the whole of the team and capturing the gun, which he brought back to his company. Later in the day he was slightly wounded.’ London Gazette 2nd Dec 1919. Awarded the DCM 12/3/1919 *(RMF Book Capt McCance)*.

**P Cullinane:** Clare. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn. POW in Dec 1915. *(CJ) RSM P Cullinan: 2nd Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers 4366. Lived in South Farnborough. He was awarded the DCM on the 30th Jan 1920.* Same person?

4366 Regimental Sergeant Major P. Cullinane of 2RMF who was captured at Etreux and spent the war as a POW. After the war he took up the role of RSM 3RMF and was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal and the Meritorious Service Medal. Having joined the Regiment in 1893, he was discharged in 1919.

Awards Won by Claremen with the RMF

**Private Ralph Gorman DCM:** The Glen Kilrush. Only one R Gorman in the Royal Munster Fusiliers 6006 (and later 71655 in the Machine Gun Corps). **He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for bravery. KM** [Going to the Balkans in Nov. 1915 could have been joining 1 Bn. 6 Bn. or 7 Bn. His citation for DCM shows him in the MGC] **Eddie Lough**

**Sergeant Thomas Howley DCM:** Twoclay, North Clare, died of wounds 19th April 1917, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn 4170, G/M in Germany. *(TB)* **He was awarded the DCM** *(1/1/17 RMF Book). (See Profiles of the Clare War Dead F-K)* ‘For conspicuous gallantry in action. Although wounded he remained at his post and handled his men with great courage and determination.’ London Gazette 13th Feb 1917.(Ancestry.com)

**Peter Loftus DCM:** Ennistymon, died of wounds 19th May 1915 age 19 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 9483, G/M in Alexandria, Egypt. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal 3/7/1915. *(TB)* ‘On the 26th April 1915 at Sedd-EL-Bahr (V Beach Gallipoli), for gallant conduct in volunteering to advance to a forward position under heavy fire, where he established himself, thus enabling the attack to make headway when the position was captured.’ Son of W.and Annie Loftus. He was also **Mentioned in Despatches.** (Guss O’Halloran) ‘On 26th April 1915, at Sedd-el-Bahr, for gallant conduct in volunteering to advance to a forward position under very heavy fire, where he established himself, thus enabling the attack to make headway when the position was captured.’ London Gazette 3rd July 1915.

**Sergeant John Joseph O’Shea DCM:** Miltown Malbay. 1st Bn. Royal Munster Fusiliers 9487. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal *(25/8/1917 RMF Book)* age 24 in March 1917 ‘For gallant conduct and constant devotion to duty’. His brother Pat was killed in Ypres. *(CJ)* **See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 126. Sergeant J O’Shea:** Flag Road,Miltown Malbay. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wrote a letter from the front in the Clare Journal Sept 1915. *(CJ)* ‘For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in bombing and capturing an enemy post. He set a fine example of courage and coolness combined with sound judgement, and later he pushed forward and obtained valuable information enabling a trench to be captured and further facilitating the success of the advance.’ London Gazette 25th Aug 1917.
Awards Won by Claremen with the RMF

Lieutenant Hugh Murrough Vere O’Brien MC: Ballyalla, Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn (16th Div). (PMcN) Severely wounded Aug 1916 in Loos. (CJ) He appears to have seen no further action after this. He was awarded the Military Cross (not the Distinguished Service Order as was in the papers) in Aug 1916 ‘for conspicuous gallantry during raids on enemy trenches. On one occasion after his return, finding that a man was missing, he went out in a wounded condition and brought him in under heavy gunfire.’ Lieutenant Hugh Murrough Vere O’Brien: 8th RMF. He was awarded the Military Cross on the 25/8/1916. (RMF Book Capt McCance) T/Lt Hugh Murrough Vere O’Brien. Born 15 Jul 1887. Son of Robert Vere O’Brien, family of Barons Inchiquin. Kinsman to Hen Henry Barnaby O’Brien (qv). 29724/25 Aug 1916(C). MC. Royal Munster Fusiliers. (fold3.com)

Tom Bentley MM: Cratloe. Joined the 5th Royal Munster Fusiliers in 1913, and served with the 2nd RMF 5871 in France. ‘A first class soldier who for reasons of his own refused promotion.’ He was awarded the Military Medal in May 1918. (29/8/ 1918 in RMF Book). After the war he joined an organisation that was having a difference of opinion with the British Government. Later he became an Officer in the Free State Army. (The Story of the RMF 1914-1918 Martin Staunton)(RMF Book Capt McCance)

He was also awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in Dec 1916 (1/1/1917 RMF Book). With the demand for medals generated by the First World War, the MSM was, from 1916, also awarded for acts of gallantry or meritorious conduct when not in the face of the enemy. He also became 16/DRO (Director of Recruiting and Organisation for the 16th Div?) in May 1918 when he was awarded the Military Medal. (2nd Munsters in France H S Jervis)

Private John Keane MM: Burton St Kilrush, killed in action 9th Sept 1916 age 20 (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September at the Somme), Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4612 (16th Div), G/M on Thiepval Memorial in France. He won the Military Medal. (21st Oct 1916) ‘The death is announced of a brave Kilrush soldier, Private J Keane, of the 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers, who was killed in action. He received the Military Medal and Parchment Certificate for bravery. Deceased is the son of Mr and Mrs Pat Keane Burton Street.’ Clare Journal 1917. (TB) Brother of Michael. KM
Awards Won by Claremen with the RMF

Michael ‘Micko’ Canny MM: Ennistymon. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers. He was awarded the Military Medal (Distinguished Conduct Medal in the newspapers) and the French Medal Militaire for saving British and French officers under heavy gunfire in Sept 1917 in Passchendaele. (CJ)

Private Michael Canny: 1st RMF 5414. He was awarded the Military Medal on the 29/9/1917. (RMF Book Capt McCance)

Joachim McDonagh MM: Ennistymon, survived War, 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers RMF. NCS Wounded in Oct 1916. (CJ) He was awarded the Military Medal for Gallantry in the Field. (Guss O’Halloran)

Private J McDonough: 8th RMF 5845. Awarded the Military Medal on the 14/9/1916. (RMF Book Capt McCance) (Service Number 3378 according to Guss O’Halloran)

Stephen McKnight: Born and lived in Kilrush, killed in action 22nd March 1918, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 3622 in Pozieres, G/M in France. (TB) He won the Military Medal 17/9/1917 (and 2 Parchment Certificates) in Passchendaele. Son of Patrick and Ellen McKnight, Hector Street, Kilrush. Brother of James McKnight who fought with the US Army in WW1. (Morgan Roughan) (RMF Book Capt McCance)

Thomas Muldoon MM: Born in India, lived in Feakle, died 9th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 7857 (16th Div), G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. He won the Military Medal (23rd Aug 1916) The MM is not mentioned with his name at Thiepval. (TB) Wounded in July 1916. Son of Thomas Muldoon. (CJ) (Battle of Ginchy, 9 September)

Corporal Patrick O’Loughlin MM: Ennistymon. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers. (g/3885). He was awarded the Military Medal 13/3/1918. (Clare Library)(RMF Book Capt McCance)

Private John Quinn MM: Lahinch, died of wounds 23rd Feb 1918, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 5897, G/M in France. He was awarded the Military Medal 10/4/1918. (TB) (RMF Book Capt McCance)
Awards Won by Claremen with the RMF

Private Stephen Scully MM: Ennistymon. 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers 5540. He was awarded the Military Medal (24/1/1919) for gallantry and fearless conduct. On the 28th Aug 1918 ‘as a stretcher bearer he rendered most valuable assistance to the wounded of his own Battalion. He worked fearlessly and untiringly from 2pm on the 28th to 6am on the 29th and cleared a whole area of wounded... On Sept 2nd he displayed the same gallantry in an intense barrage, bandaging the wounded and carried them to an Aid Post’. (SR). (RMF Book Capt McCance)

Private John Frawley: Chapel Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served for one year in France. He received a pension. KM Only one J Frawley in the RMF. [The Medal Role Index Card shows that he was mentioned in despatches, there are other medal cards and rolls and a Silver War Badge record. He was a regular soldier, joined 1911, was in India 1914 and France 6-4-15 with the 2 Bn. RMF. He was later transferred to the Royal Defence Corps 87353 He is named as James]

Captain William Francis Henn: Paradise Kildysart. He was commissioned during the 1914-1918 war into the Royal Munster Fusiliers and served at Gallipoli (three weeks wounded and missing at Suvla Bay with the 7th Munsters and Mentioned-in-Despatches 12/1/20) and Palestine. After the war he joined the Egyptian-Sudan Civil Service, serving in the Egyptian Police in which he became Commandant of the Alexandria City Police (1930-1937). From 1937-1959 he was Chief Constable of Gloucestershire. His wife Geraldine was the daughter of Thomas George Stacpoole-Mahon of Corbally, Co. Clare, by his wife Geraldine Mary, eldest daughter of 14th Baron Inchiquin of Dromoland Castle, Co. Clare. The Henn Family of Paradise (Clare Library) (RMF Book Capt McCance)

2nd Lt. Gerald Lefroy: Grandson of Henry Maunsell Lefroy of Fern’s Hollow, Killaloe, killed in action 24th Aug 1916 on the Somme (at High Wood), aged 20, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn (1st Div), G/M on the Thiepval Memorial in France. Mentioned in Despatches London Gazette Jan 1916. (for Loos ?)Eldest son of Mr James A.C. and Margaret Lefroy, Japan. (TB) He is also commemorated on a memorial in St Flannan’s Cathedral Killaloe.

Private Thomas Devers: Burton St Kilrush. One of 5 brothers who served. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn (16th Div). KM. Wounded in Oct 1916. (CJ) He received a parchment certificate from Major General Hickie in which tribute is paid to his ‘gallant conduct and constant devotion to duty in the field during 1916.’ He had been wounded 4 times and fought at the Somme. (Probably at the Battle of Ginchy, 9 September). His name was entered in the records of the Irish Division. (CJ) T Devers: Kilrush. Leinster Regiment. Wounded in July 1916. (CJ) (an employee of M Glynn & Sons)
Pte John Dewar: Scariff. Trench Mortar Battery, 1st Royal Munster Fusiliers 4850. He was awarded a Parchment Certificate by Major-General Hickie for his gallant conduct and devotion to duty on June 7th & 8th 1917 (The Battle of Messines 7-14th June 1917) and his name was entered in the record of the Irish Division. (SR)

Sgt Major Michael Francis McNamara: Born in Newcastle West Co Limerick, lived in Co Kildare enlisted in Ennis, died 20th Jan 1918 age 38 in Mesopotamia, Royal Army Service Corps GHQ Baghdad S/13074, G/M in Iraq. Died in Mesopotamia. (TB) Formerly with the Royal Munster Fusiliers 5th Bn where he was awarded the Medaille D'Honneur (Bronze) and Diploma in 1915. He was 6ft 1in and had three brothers who also enlisted (John and Peter). He was the son of Mr P McNamara Market St Ennis.

Donat “Dunny” White MM: Scariff. 8th Royal Munster Fusiliers 4870. Dunny first came to prominence as a splendid hurler and played no small part in securing the County Championship for his native parish in 1907. He enlisted in 1914. He had survived the slaughter of the Somme and shortly after was awarded the Military Medal (no record) for going out under heavy enemy fire, and rescuing a senior officer who was lying wounded in what was known as no-man’s-land. Shortly after this daring rescue, Dunny received a serious eye wound that partially blinded him, and he received an honourable discharge from the army and was sent home. He died on Dec 23 1967. (Michael O’Gorman) (See Clare WW1 Individual Profiles) (He was in the 8 Bn. discharged 4-7-1916 due to wounds)

Sergeant Thomas Keane DSM (DCM???): The Glen Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, Gallipoli, one of 5 Keane brothers from The Glen Kilrush (Inc Michael and Pat). He received a pension. KM Wounded Sept 1916. (CJ) He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. (C E Glynn) (The DSM was an award for bravery whilst on active service at sea and was for other ranks’ Royal Navy personnel, members of the other Services and other Commonwealth countries who held rank up to and including Chief Petty Officer.) There are two Private T Keanes 1st RMF (8830 & 9308) in the RMF Book who were awarded Military Medals.

Private James McCormack MM: Vandeleur Street Kilrush. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Served in France. Awarded the Military Medal for bravery. KM (Not in RMF Book) [Nearest found was a Sgt David McCormack RMF 8961 1 Bn. a MM recipient 3/6/16] Eddie Lough
Claremen in the Royal Irish Regiment

The 1st Battalion landed in France in 1914 and engaged in various actions on the Western Front including; The action of St Eloi, The Second Battle of Ypres (1915), The capture of Karajakoy in Salonika, The capture of Yenikoi in Salonika (1916), the Third Battle of Gaza, Capture of the Sheria Position, Capture of Jerusalem, Defence of Jerusalem, Battle of Nablus. (1917)


Ballynacally: Daniel Joseph O'Dea.

Ballyvaughan: Martin Moran

Bunratty: Major Edmund Roche-Kelly DSO MID

Clarecastle / Ballyea: John Joe McMahon, Lieut T L Pilkington, Lt. George Eric Guy Stacpoole DSO

Clonlara: Daniel Meehan.

Cooraclare: Michael Reidy.

Corofin: Mathew Clohessy, Patrick Linnane.

Ennis: Lt Thomas Connolly, Myles Cullen, Michael Martin Gilligan (Michael Clarke), Francis Haugh, Michael Hynes, Patrick Kearney, Michael Kearse, Joseph McCormick, Michael McDonald, Francis McNamara, M Moroney, John William Nelson, Patrick (Pappy) Neville, Peter Noonan (Peter Kinsella), Michael Shaughnessy, George Tuohy, M Woods.

Ennistymon: Martin Beakey, Edward Comber, Thomas McCarthy, Michael Mc Mahon, Martin Moran, John Thynne.

Feakle: Joseph Riordan, Patrick O’Donnell.

Kildysart: John Lennon, Patrick Moloney.
Major Edmund Roche-Kelly DSO MID Royal Irish Regiment. He was born 1881 in Firgrove House, Bunratty, County Clare. He was a pre-war soldier. He attended Downside School in Somerset before being commissioned into the Royal Irish Regiment in 1901. He served with the 2nd Batt. in the Boer War (officially the 2nd South African War, 1899-1902) and, by 1909, had risen to the rank of Captain. He also served with the Regiment in India and was promoted to major in 1916. He was adjutant to the 3rd Royal Irish Regiment during the Easter Rising.

He was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel on 31 October 1916 and given command of his own battalion. By July 1917 he had been awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Legion d’Honneur by the French Government. He was also awarded the Distinguished Service Order by the British Government, the citation stating: ‘..for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in commanding his battalion through an attack, in which he displayed great fearlessness and exceptional skill. He moved up through very heavy enemy barrage, personally reconnoitred two advanced positions, and supervised all details of consolidation, all the while exposed to very heavy shell fire. His splendid personal example and disregard of danger imbued all ranks with a spirit that swept away all opposition’. 
Finally, in May 1918, having also been twice mentioned in despatches, he took over command of a battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry. After the war Edmund Roche-Kelly stayed in the army and returned the Royal Irish regiment. In 1920 he was commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion, then stationed in Delhi. While there he learnt that his family home Firgrove House, near Bunratty, had been demolished. By 1922 he had again changed regiment, joining the Border Regiment. After his retirement he settled in England, where he died in September 1958, aged 77. (‘According to Their Lights’ Neil Richardson)

Lt R W Burke MC MID: 16 Frances St, Kilrush. Royal Irish Regiment. He was awarded the Military Cross in June 1917 for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during a raid on an enemy trench. Although wounded he led his men until ordered to the rear. He had previously been awarded two Parchment Certificates for bravery, and had been Mentioned in Despatches. He was the son of Mr Burke the Manager of the National Bank in Kilrush. (CJ) 2Lt Richard Edward Walter Burke. MC attached to Connaught Rangers. 30135/18 Jun 1917(C). MC. 2nd Bn Royal Irish Regt. (fold3.com)

Lt. George Eric Guy Stacpoole DSO: Born in London Jan 1891, lived at Edenvale Ballyea. Killed in action at St Eloi in Ypres 27th Jan 1915 age 23. Royal Irish Regiment 1st Bn, 82nd Brigade in the 27th Division. G/M in Belgium. (TB) A brother of R H Stacpoole MC. He was the great grandson of John de la Zouche Stacpoole (who fought at Waterloo). He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) in 1915. (Joe Power) St Eloi: January 1915 was a month of rain, snow and floods, made worse for both sides by artillery-fire and sniping and the need for constant trench repairs. The British front was extended when the 27th Division and the 28th Division arrived in France and took over from the French XVI Corps. The British divisions had only 72 18-pounders between them and had to hold the front line with far more men to compensate, the French being able to defend an outpost line with 120 75 mm, 24 90 mm and six 120 mm guns.

Major Henry Lefroy P.C. J.P.: Killaloe. At the outbreak of the 1914 war he was given command of S.R.A. Royal Irish Regiment area; and in 1916 was promoted as personal assistant to the Director General Royal Artillery in 1917 and was Liaison Officer between the Admiralty, War Office and Royal Air Force. He was gazetted Brevet Major for his services in the First World War and retired in 1919. (Sean Kierse The Killaloe Anthology) He was the recruiting Officer in Killaloe who enlisted 112 men. (CJ)
Claremen in the Royal Irish Rifles

The Regiment raised 21 Battalions and was awarded 40 Battle honours and 3 Victoria Crosses losing 7,010 men during the course of the war. The following Claremen fought for the Royal Irish Rifles:

**Corofin**: Patrick Scales. **Ennis**: Thomas Gallagher, William Fleck Johnston B.E., Edward James McNamara, Michael Murray.


**Patrick Doherty**: Kilshanny, died Aug 1917 age 26, Royal Irish Rifles, G/M in Belgium.

Exhibits: b/w photograph of “Officers and NCOs, ‘C’ Company, Rifles BEF, France, March 1917”; Officers whistle, British War Medal, b/w photograph Memorial Plaque.

Claremen in the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers

The Regiment raised 13 Battalions and was awarded 46 Battle Honours and 8 Victoria Crosses, losing 5,890 men during the course of the war.

The following Claremen fought for the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers.

**Ennis:** Major Matthew J Kenny.

**Ennistymon:** J Reidy, Joseph Riordan.

**Kilrush:** Pat King, Patrick Connell, Thomas Hayes, H Nevin.

**Kilaloe:** J Reilly.

**Kilmaley:** Robert McFarline (McFarlane)

**Mountshannon:** Cyril Dermott Fouace Somers.

**Newmarket on Fergus:** Thomas Craig, Cpl Edward Parker, Cpl Herbert Parker.

**Quilty:** Michael Moloney.

**Tulla:** George Pepper.

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**Corporal Thomas McMahon:** Clarecastle. Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers (480). *(Eric Shaw)* On the 5-point medal is clearly seen – 5407, Pte. T. McMahon, R. Muns. Fus. On the rim of the silver medal as far as I could read is: 480 CPL. T. McMahon R.In. Fus. The medals are supposed to belong to the same person, a man who survived the war. *(Eric Shaw)* (Terence and Thomas McMahon are two different people.)

There were also a Black & Tan Old IRA medal and 50th Old IRA Anniversary Medal 1921-1971 for Thomas McMahon. It was only afterwards I noticed that the Great War medals were from two different regiments. I have since discovered that one of the medals belonged to Terence McMahon, RMF 5407. The two McMahons, Terence and Tom, were not related but may have been friends. Terence predeceased Tom and perhaps left the medal to him. *(Eric Shaw)*

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The medals for Thomas McMahon are a British War Medal 1914-1918, a Black & Tan Old IRA medal and a 50th Old IRA Anniversary Medal 1921-1971. *(Eric Shaw)*

480.CPL. T. McMahon R.IR.FUS
The Regiment raised 7 Battalions and was awarded 32 Battle Honours, 4 Victoria Crosses losing 1,980 men during the course of the war. The following Claremen fought for the Leinster Regiment.

**Ballyvaughan**: Patrick Glynn.  **Broadford**: Thomas Mclnerney.  **Doonbeg**: M McGrath.

**Ennis**: Michael Barry, H T Bill DCM, George Brady, J Brennan, Daniel Carmody, Thomas Coughlan/Coghlan, Capt. Algernon Crowe, Charles Cullinan, Michael Doherty, Henry Donohoe/Donohue, Peter Frawley, Matthew Griffey, Martin Hallinan, John Keane (John Savage), Patrick Kelly (Patrick Considine), James Murphy (James Clarke), Jack O’Leary, Michael Quan.

**Ennistymon**: Paddy Sherlock, S Sherlock,  **Feakle**: Cornelius Maloney/Moloney.


**Kilmurry**: Patrick Fitzmartin, Patrick Fitzpatrick.

**Kilrush**: John Burke, **Patrick Cahill**, William Cunningham, T Devers , Michael Maloney, P McMahon. Michael Moloney,  **Knock**: Thomas Gore-Hickman  **Lisdoonvarna**: Michael Beakey

**Newmarket on Fergus**: Lieut William Barker MC. Henry Busker MC, Patrick B Cullinan MC,

**O’Briens Bridge**: John McKeogh  **Parteen**: Denis Alphonsus Hayes,

**Ruan**: John Montague ‘Monty’ Kelly, Captain Fitzwilliam Hume Crowe.

**Sixmilebridge**: Lance Corp E Kelly, James Moroney.

**Tulla**: John Conroy.

**Whitegate**: Michael McNamara

**Co Clare**: Patrick Keane, Joseph McCarthy, John Flynn, P. Frawley, Matt Griffey, R.G.Moloney

**William Cunningham**

Kilrush

Exhibits: 1914 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, Memorial Scroll, Memorial Plaque.
Claremen in the Leinster Regiment

Pte H T Bill DCM: Ennis. Leinster Regiment. 2112. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (DCM) in June 1917. He had previously been awarded a Parchment Certificate for bravery and devotion to duty. (CJ) See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 140.

Lieut William Barker MC: Newmarket on Fergus. Leinster Regiment. He was awarded the Military Cross. (Kilnasoolagh Church Booklet) 2 Lt William Henry Barker 30915/24 Sep 1918(C) MC 2nd Bn Leinster Regt. (fold3.com)

2nd Lt Henry Busker MC: Carrigoran. In 1918 he was awarded the Military Cross for ‘conspicuous bravery’ serving with the Leinster Regiment in the field of battle in France. He was also awarded the Divisional Card of Honour. (Joe Power) No records?
Claremen in the Connaught Rangers

The Regiment raised 6 Battalions and received 42 Battle Honours and one Victoria Cross during the course of the war, losing 2,050 men. The following Claremen fought for the Connaught Rangers:

**Ballyvaughan:** Patrick Kealey  
**Bunratty:** James Clarke  
**Clarecastle:** Thomas Keane.

**Corofin:** James Madden  
**Doonbeg:** Patrick Galvin.

**Ennis:** Patrick Brigdale, William Burke, John Costello, Patrick Cunningham, Martin Goulding, Michael Hallowan, Edward Hassett, Charles Joseph Lennon, Patrick McCormack, Walter George Morrissey/Morrissey, Michael O’Leary, Sgt E Reynolds, Christy Molloy

**Ennistymon:** Patrick Flanagan, Patrick Halloran, Michael O’Connor, Patrick Reeves, Patrick Ryan, Anthony White, Edward White.

**Kilkee:** Thomas Murray.

**Kilmurry:** Thomas O’Gorman  
**Kilnaboy:** Michael Whelan.

**Kilrush:** Patrick Brann, John Breen, Joe Hawes, Thomas Lennon, Patrick Moloney.

**Knock:** Edmond Ivan Gore Hickman  
**Mountshannon:** Frederick Ralph George, Thomas Kelly DC M.

**Moyasta:** Thomas O Halloran.  
**New Quay:** Francie McDonagh, Jim Minogue.

**O’Briens Bridge:** Daniel O’Brien.  
**Quin:** Michael Vincent McKiernan.  
**Scariff:** Michael Kearney.

**Sixmilebridge:** Michael Coleman, Martin Morgan.

**Co Clare:** Michael Burke, Edward Tuohey, Sgt E Fitzpatrick, Private Galvin, J McDonnell, M McMahon.

**2nd Lt Michael Vincent McKiernan MM:** Quin. He lived in Co Galway, died of wounds 11th May 1918 age 22, possibly received during the German Spring Offensive, Connaught Rangers 6th Bn, 16th Div, G/M in France. He won the **Military Medal and bar** before he became an officer. Son of James and Anna Maria McKiernan, Clooney, Quin Co Clare. (TB)On 21 March 1918, the Connaught Rangers 6th Bn was "practically annihilated" during the German Spring Offensive breakthrough. In one week during The Battle of St Quentin (21-23 March) and The Battle of Rosieres (26-27 March), the battalion lost "22 officers and 618 other ranks". As a result of these heavy losses, the survivors were transferred into the 2nd Battalion, the Leinster Regiment.
Claremen in the Royal Irish Fusiliers

The Regiment raised a total of 14 Battalions and was awarded 40 Battle Honours and 2 Victoria Crosses, losing 3,330 men during the course of the First World War.

The following Claremen fought for the Royal Irish Fusiliers.

**Bunratty:** James Moloney

**Clonlara:** Lt J R Massy Westropp.

**Corofin:** Albert Pearce.

**Ennis:** Joseph Clohesy, Patrick Crimmins, Robert Martin Frazer, Christopher McMahon, Thomas Meehan. **Nicholas Murphy**

**Ennistymon:** Francis Davis, Andrew O’Brien.

**Kilrush:** Patrick Cooney, Michael McDonagh.

**Liscannor:** M McDonnell.

**Lissycasey:** Patrick Purtill.

**Newmarket on Fergus:** Richard Wolfe MM. **Scariff:** Michael Farrell

**Sixmilebridge:** James Lynch.

**Co Clare:** James O’Halloran.

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**Patrick Crimmins MM:** Born in Ennis, lived in Dublin. Killed in action 24th Aug 1918 age 24, 1st Bn Royal Irish Fusiliers 18385 (36th Ulster Div), G/M in Bailleul France. He won the Military Medal. Husband of Teresa Crimmins, Chancery Lane, Dublin. **(TB) 18 August – 6 September 1918: the Advance in Flanders.** The Second (which included the 36th Div) and Fifth Armies begin operations in the Lys valley, recapturing the ground lost in April 1918. The 36th Div recaptured Bailleul by the 30th Aug.

**Sergeant Richard John Wolfe MM:** Born in Markethill Co Armagh. Royal Irish Fusiliers 9th Battalion (Co Armagh) 18609. 108th Brigade in 36th (Ulster) Division. Killed in action Aug 16th 1917 age 21, in the **Battle of Langemarck** (16–18 August 1917). G/M Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium. He was awarded the Military Medal.
**Claremen in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers**

The Regiment raised 11 Battalions and was awarded 49 Battle Honours and 3 Victoria Crosses, losing 4,780 men during the course of the war.

- **Bunratty**: Capt. Charles Rawdon McNamara.  
  **Clarecastle/Ballyea**: John Power, Martin Slattery.
- **Clonlara**: John Moloney.  
  **Cooraclare**: Sinon Considine.  
  **Corofin**: Maconn John Macnamara, Dudley Eyre Persee.  
- **Kilfenora**: Private Thomas O'Brien.  
  **Kilkee**: Martin Sculley/Scully.
- **Killaloe**: Patrick Kennedy, Corp Murphy.  
  **Kilmihil**: Daniel O'Dea.
- **Kilrush**: Patrick Burke, J J T Carroll, Norman Gore Hickman, J S Armstrong, Charles Martin Armstrong, Patrick Farrell, Poole Henry Hickman, William Johnson, Martin Walsh.
- **Knock**: Thomas Hickman.  
  **Miltown Malbay**: Joseph Corry, Tom Hill, Private John Sexton.
- **Newmarket on Fergus**: Samuel Craig, Patrick Moloney.  
  **Quin**: Francis Blake, Thomas Mack.
- **Scariff**: Patrick Bennett.  
  **Tulla**: Private John Meehan, Edward Roughan.
- **Co Clare**: Edward Collins, John Henry Gallagher, John Arthur Harold, John Kelly, Thomas Loftus, Thomas Quinn, Patrick Roche.

**2nd Lt James Septemus Armstrong MC**: Glebe House Kilrush, Royal Dublin Fusiliers.  

**Martin Walsh MM**: Born and lived in Kilrush, killed in action 1st June 1917, just before the **Battle of Messines Ridge (7-14th June 1917)**. Royal Dublin Fusiliers 2nd Bn 6745, 48th Brigade in 16th (Irish) Division. G/M in Belgium. He won the **Military Medal**. Son of Mrs Johanna Walsh. **(TB)**
Claremen in the Irish Guards

During the First World War, the Irish Guards were deployed to France and they remained on the Western Front for the duration of the war. During the course of the war, the Regiment was awarded 406 medals 4 of which were Victoria Crosses and lost over 2,300 officers and men. The following Claremen fought for the Irish Guards. (6 foot min height)

**Ballyvaughan**: Timothy Kerins.  **Bodyke**: Michael McMahon.  **Carrigaholt**: John O’Dwyer.

**Carron**: Justin O’Neill MM.  **Clarecastle**: Pte Murphy.  **Clonlara**: Thomas Myers

**Cooraclare**: Timothy O Dea.  **Corofin**: Patrick Courtney, Michael Cox, Joseph Daly, Jeremiah Hanrahan.  **Cratloe**: Michael Curry.  **Doonbeg**: Michael Keane, Timothy Killeen.


**Ennistymon**: Frank Coalpoise, Timothy Foley, Patrick Lee Hegarty, Thomas McGann, Patrick Thynne.

**Fanore**: Thomas Linnane.  **Inch**: Peter O’Brien.  **Kilfenora**: Jack Mulqueen, John O’Connor.

**Kilkishen**: John Coffey, Michael Egan.


Sergeant William Feighery DCM MM: Killeen Corofin, Co Clare. He was aged 20 when he enlisted in 1905 in the 1st Bn Irish Guards 2372. He served with the BEF from Nov 1913 – Jan 1919. He was awarded the Military Medal in Oct 1916, and the Distinguished Conduct Medal in Nov 1918 along with a £20 gratuity. He was discharged in Feb 1919. His parents were John and Mary Feighery. (British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)
Second-lieutenant John Kipling of the Irish Guards, second battalion, steamed out of Southampton, England, on Aug. 16, 1915, knowing he was as good as dead.

They were all as good as dead, or thought they were — the officers and enlisted men of the recently mustered battalion. And they were not wrong. One and all, they realized that humanly speaking, unless fortune favoured them with permanent disablement, they were doomed men; since all who recovered from their wounds were returned to the war and sooner or later despatched.

He was lucky in those days who survived whole for three months; and six without hurt was almost unheard of.” The writer of those stark lines was none other than Rudyard Kipling, speaking of his son.

Claremen in the Irish Guards


Captain Tom Corry DCM MID: Labasheeda, 1st Bn Irish Guards 2384. He was Mentioned in Despatches twice and awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal in June 1915, for ‘gallantry and courage under fire’. (Clare Champion)‘His Majesty, the King, inspected the 3rd Battalion Irish Guards at Warley, on St Patrick’s Day. The principal event of the programme was the decoration of four of the 1st Battalion with the Distinguished Conduct Medal, amongst them being Drill Sergeant T.Corry, of Labasheeda, Co Clare. He was given the D.C.M. for conspicuous gallantry. He frequently performed acts which required the greatest courage under fire. He has been twice mentioned in Sir French’s despatches for gallantry. He was wounded in the left hand at Loos, after 13 months in the firing line. His Majesty pinned on the medal on his breast, and with a hearty shake hands, congratulated him on his gallantry.’(The Clare Champion Times Past 100 Years March 1916) Celebrated in poetry ‘Labasheeda Hero’ and ‘Shall the Germans encamp by the Fergus’.

Private John O’Connor DCM: Kilfenora. Irish Guards 1st Battalion 2760. Won a Distinguished Conduct Medal in 1915, ‘for conspicuous gallantry and resource. He has performed valuable services on patrol duty throughout the campaign, no work being too dangerous for him to undertake.’ See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 50.

The Hon H Barnaby O’Brien MC: Dromoland Castle, Newmarket on Fergus. Captain in the Irish Guards. He was awarded the Military Cross. (Kilnasoolagh Church Booklet)


Thomas Coonan MM: Born in 1895 in Ogonnelloe, killed in action 7th May 1918 age 23, Guards Machine Gun Regiment 4th Bn 76 (3rd Guards Brigade, Guards Division), G/M in France. He was awarded the Military Medal at the Somme (Probably in the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September 1916). (TB) He is the grand uncle of Myles Dungan the renowned historian and broadcaster. (See Profiles of the Clare War Dead A-E)
**Claremen in the Irish Guards**


Timothy O Dea MM: From Cooraclare, killed in action 27th Nov 1917 age 39, in the Battle of Cambrai (same day, place, Regiment and Battalion as Peter O’Brien). Irish Guards 2nd Bn 10251, 2nd (Guards) Brigade of the Guards Division. G/M in France. He won the Military Medal. Son of Michael and Honor O’Dea Tullabrack, Cooraclare. *(TB)*

Sergeant Justin O’Neill MM: RIC Barracks Carron, Co Clare. He was from Sunday’s Well in Cork. He was a Constable aged 22 when he enlisted in Dec 1914 in the Irish Guards 2nd Bn 6184. He served with the British Expeditionary Force from Aug 1915 to April 1918. **He was awarded the Military Medal on the 29th October 1917.** He was wounded in action on the 12th April 1918 and taken to Etaples, and then onto Netly Hospital and the Mater in Dublin. He was discharged in Feb 1919. His father was John O’Neill. *(British Army WW1 Pension Records 1914-1920 ancestry.com)* **Justin O’Neill:** Former Constable in the RIC in Carron. *(CJ)*

The Hon L J P Butler MID: Knappogue Castle, Quin. Irish Guards. Son of Lord Dunboyne, promoted in March 1915 to Lt Colonel for service in the field. He had also been **Mentioned in Despatches twice.** *(CJ)*

Edward Graham Mylne MID: Sixmilebridge. Born in Bombay. Died of wounds 12th June 1915 age 32, Irish Guards 1st Bn, 2nd Div. G/M in France. He died of wounds received on May 13 in No. 11 Red Cross Hospital, Rouen. He was Mentioned in Despatches. Former District Inspector with the RIC in Sixmilebridge. *(TB)*
Col. R. G. Parker D.S.O. C.M.G. C.B.E.: Ballyvalley, Killaloe. King’s Own Lancaster Regiment. Mentioned in Sir John French's despatches. He served in the South African War, being present at nearly all the important engagements during the campaign. He *was mentioned in despatches twice*, and received the Queen's Medal with 6 clasps and the King's Medal with 2 clasps. (Our Heroes website) Brother of Ronald E. Parker. He became a Brigadier-General in 1918, and a Colonel in 1919.
**Lancashire Fusiliers:** Thomas Brogan, John Mack. **Leicestershire Regiment:** Private John Blake, Private Joseph Griffin. **Life Guards:** Private John Cangley, Captain Alexander Moore Vandeleur.


**Manchester Regiment:** Thomas Cunningham, William Foran, Michael Keating, John Kelly Blake (John Kelly), Private John Sexton, Martin Rochford.

**Monmouthshire Regiment:** Basil Claude Shaw. **Norfolk Regiment:** Alfred Murray, John O’Dea.

**Northumberland Fusiliers Tyneside Irish:** John Laffan, Private Robert Michael Loughan, Lt B E Stacpoole-Mahon. **North Lancashire Regiment:** Dennis Lynch. **North Stafford Regiment:** Walter Miller.

**Queens Westminister Rifles:** Lt M.C. Meere. 7th **Queens Own Hussars:** Major-General Sir Michael O’Moore Charles Creagh KBE MC. **Rifle Brigade Unit:** Michael Canty, John Green, Lt Edward Henry Lovett Henn, 2nd Lieut The Hon Donough E F O’Brien. **Royal Army Ordnance Corps:** John Frederick Olive, John Sullivan.

**Royal Berkshire Regiment:** Pte Sydney L.B.White. **Royal Kent Fusiliers:** Private Patrick Butler.

**Royal Lancashire Regiment:** John Regan. **Royal Sussex Regiment:** Samuel Sivers.

**Royal Warwickshire Regiment:** Michael O’Halloran. **Royal West Surrey Regiment:** Henry Fokes, E Martin, Thomas Francis O’Reilly, George William Vincent.

**Sherwood Foresters:** Patrick J Hartigan. **South Lancashire Regiment:** Patrick King, Patrick McMahon, J Mcnamara, Patrick Mulcahy, 2nd Lt Herbert Parker Peacocke.

**West Riding Regiment:** Thomas Daly, Private Patrick Grimes, Private Michael McNamara, Charles Edward Walsh, Michael McNamara. **Worcesters:** P Bunfield, Patrick Fitzgerald. **Yorkshire Regiment:** Private Henry Hitchens, Patrick Magner, Private John O’Dea, Lance Corporal Bernard Joseph. Spinnett.

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**2nd Lt F G Cangley DSO:** Kings Liverpool Regiment was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (DSO). He was the son of John Cangley from Ennis, and the brother of John below. *(CJ) See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 119.* ‘Cangley F G (DSO LG 14. 11. 16) T/2nd Lt, Liverpool Rgt. His DSO was awarded for services on 16.9.16 at Le Boeufs.’ One of 3 brothers that fought in the War, David, John and 2nd Lt F G Cangley. **CANGLEY, F. G.** (D.S.O. L.G. 14.11.16), T/2nd Lt., Liverpool Regt. His D.S.O. was awarded for services on 16.9.16, at Les Boeufs. (The VC and DSO Volume III)
Captain Cecil Richard Vincent MC: 1897-1971. Born in Dublin. The family lived in Clarecastle for a while and then moved to Dysart. He enlisted in 1917 in the 18th Bn. (London Irish) London Regiment. He was awarded the Military Cross and Bar. He was a brother of George William. (Eric Shaw) 2Lt Cecil Richard Causabon Vincent. 30530/18 Feb 1918;30801/18 Jul 1918(C). MC. 1/18th Bn London Regt. (fold3.com)

Lt W J Wheeler O’Bryen MM: Royal Warwicks was awarded the Military Medal. His father was Dr Wheeler O’Bryen from Ennis who lived in Sydenham. (CJ) See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 118.

Lt J B MacLachan MID: Knockerra, Kilrush, 1st CHB. KM In 1918 he was awarded the Military Cross for bravery. (Joe Power) Lt J B MacLachlan: Canadian Artillery. Mentioned in Despatches 11th July 1919 LG.

John Walsh MID: Born (1883) in Caherogan Malbay Malbay lived in London, died of wounds 19th Feb 1917 age 34, at the Somme. Royal Fusiliers (City of London) 22nd Bn (Kensington), 99th Brigade 2nd Division. G/M in France. (TB) He was promoted to Major in March 1916. (CJ) Major John Walsh, who had been Mentioned in Despatches (possibly for the Battle of Ancre 13-18 Nov 1916) before he was killed in action near Miraumont on the Somme, and is buried at Ovillers Military Cemetery. Son of Michael Walsh (of Ballygastel Lisdoonvarna), the principal of Dunsallagh National School, which was in existence from 1885 to 1975.

Major William Waltrude Meldon: Durham Light Infantry, Special Reserve. Resident Magistrate in Killaloe. Born in Bray. He was awarded the Legion of Honour and Croix de Guerre for distinguished service during the war. He was wounded while serving in France in 1914, and after that he was severely wounded at the taking of Kut-el-Amara in Mesopotamia. He was a top class cricketer. He died on the 23rd May 1957, aged 78.
Claremen in Scottish Regiments

- **Black Watch**: Michael Coughlan, William Murchie.
- **Cameron Highlanders**: Private Alfred Edwards.
- **Kings Own Scottish Borderers**: John McMahon.
- **Scot’s Guards**: Patrick Michael Hastings.
- **Scottish Fusiliers**: Joseph McCleary, James Mullins.
- **Scottish Rifles**: Charles McNamara.
- **Seaforth Highlanders**: Timothy Flannagan.

Recruitment Areas of the Scottish Regiments Circa 1914

Claremen in Welsh Regiments

- **Royal Welsh Fusiliers**: Thomas Browning.
- **South Wales Borderers**: Edward Beck, L/Corporal Martin McMahon.
- **Welsh Guards**: George Matthew Antoney.
- **Welsh Regiment**: Simon Frawley, Douglas Heard.

The Welsh Regiment
Claremen in the British Navy

11,000 Irishmen were in the British Navy during WW1. The following Claremen served in the Navy.


**Broadford**: William Edward Warren McDonald.

**Carrigaholt**: Michael Brennan, Denis Cahill, Denis Cahill, Michael Delohery, Martin Doyle, Patrick Fortune, Michael Haugh, Martin Keane, Edward Keating, Able Seaman Thomas Lynch, Patrick McMahon, Patrick McEligan, Daniel Quill, Patrick Reddan, Patrick Sullivan.

**Clarecastle**: John Patrick Kelly.  **Clonlara**: Michael Joseph Keane, Lt Lancelot Alexander Montgomery, Batt Shea, James Young.


**Doora / Barefield**: Christopher Neville.

James Power D.S.M.: Born in Querrin on the 2nd Sept 1892. Royal Navy J6201. He was on the *HMS Hermes*, and survived after it was torpedoed and sunk in Oct 1914. *(CJ) See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 11 and 234.* ‘Buried here also is James Power D.S.M. Died 19th March 1978 in his 86th year veteran of two World Wars, Royal Navy 1909-1932 Irish Marine Service 1939-1964 R.I.P.’ Taken from his gravestone in Querrin Cemetery (Templemeagh). His first ship was the Ganges in Sept 1892, and his last ship was the Repulse in Aug 1928.

**HMS Hermes** was a *Highflyer*-class protected cruiser built for the Royal Navy in the 1890s. She was recommissioned at the beginning of World War I in August 1914 for service as an aircraft ferry and depot ship for the Royal Naval Air Service. She was torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine in the Straits of Dover in October 1914 with the loss of 44 lives.
Claremen in the British Navy


**HMS Indefatigable** was sunk on 31 May 1916 during the Battle of Jutland, the largest naval battle of the war. Part of Vice-Admiral Sir David Beatty's Battlecruiser Fleet, she was hit several times in the first minutes of the "Run to the South", the opening phase of the battlecruiser action. Shells from the German battlecruiser *Von der Tann* caused an explosion ripping a hole in her hull, and a second explosion hurled large pieces of the ship 200 feet (60 m) in the air. Only two of the crew of 1,019 survived.

**James Burns**: Liscannon, died May 1916 age 30 on the HMS *Indefatigable* at the Battle of Jutland, Royal Navy, G/M in England.

**George Thompson**: Mountshannon. Royal Navy on HMS *Hunter*. He was badly injured after the Battle of Jutland.
**Claremen in the British Navy**


**Martin Moloney:** Lived in Quilty, died 25th Jan 1917 age 40, Royal Navy Reserve Unit, **HMS Laurentic** 5237B, G/M in England. He perished at sea after the HMS Laurentic sank after striking two mines west of Donegal with the loss of 354 lives. There were only 121 survivors. He had been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal before he died. Husband of Bridget Moloney, Quilty West. Their eldest son Michael Moloney was killed in action in April 1916. See below. (TB) **The SS Laurentic** was a British ocean liner of the White Star Line. She was converted to an armed merchant cruiser at the onset of World War I, and sank after striking two mines north of Ireland on 25 January 1917, with the loss of 354 lives. She was carrying about 43 tons of gold ingots at the time of her loss, and as of 2016, 22 bars of gold are yet to be recovered.
# Claremen in the British Navy

**Liscannor**: Michael Barnett William Arthur Bealer, Signalman Michael Fitzmaurice, Michael Hayes, Michael Hayes, Patrick Hayes, Thomas Kennedy, George Horatio Langford, John Lysaght, John McDonagh, Martin McDonagh, Patrick Nagle, Signalman John Reedy.

**Lisdoonvarna**: Denis Canny, Patrick Joseph Sheedy.  **Lissycasey**: Thomas Clancy

**Meelick**: Thomas O’Shaughnessy.  **Miltown Malbay**: Patrick Corry, John Cunneen, Patrick Cunneen, James Foran, Thomas Rourke.

**Mountshannon**: Anthony Albert Hutchinson, Able Seaman Albert Richard Thompson, George Thompson.  **Moyasta**: Patrick Haugh  **Newmarket on Fergus**: Lieut-Commander James Vandaleur Creagh, The Hon Desmond O’Brien.

**O’Callaghans Mills**: Commander Gore,  **Querrin**: James Power DSM., John Power.

**Quilty**: Thomas Boyle, Joseph Cunneen, Michael Kenny, Thomas Kenny, Seaman John McNerney, Martin Moloney, Martin Joseph Moloney, Joseph (or James) O’Connor, John O’Dwyer, Edward Shannon, Michael Shannon, John Paul Walsh,


**Sixmilebridge**: Matthew Frost, Captain Jack Graham.  **Tulla**: Michael Molloy.


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**Able Seaman James Gorman DSM**: Pound St / Hector St Kilrush. Royal Naval Air Force. Awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for bravery 11/5/1917. KM

**Captain Michael Fitzgerald MC**: Corofin. Royal Navy. He was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry with the 19th Bengal Lancers in 1916. *(Joe Power)*

On 4 April 1918, Bittern was involved in a collision with SS *Kenilworth* off the Isle of Portland in thick fog. The destroyer was overwhelmed and sank quickly with the loss of all hands (63 officers and men). A Court of Inquiry found negligence on the part of the master of SS *Kenilworth*. His instructions had been to hug the coast as closely as possible from Portland Bill to Start Point. Instead he headed straight across, showing no lights nor sounding for fog. At 0315 the *Kenilworth* saw a red light and a ship ‘small and low down’ at the moment of impact.

**HMS Bittern** was a Vickers three-funnel, 30-knot destroyer ordered by the Royal Navy under the 1895 – 1896 Naval Estimates. In August 1914 she was in active commission in the Devonport Local Flotilla tendered to HMS *Vivid*, Royal Navy Barracks. She remained in this deployment until her loss.


In March 1915 an article in the Clare Journal described how Commander Creagh used his Destroyer the HMS *Ariel* to ram and sink a Germansubmarine. He was the son of Charles Vandaleur Creagh CMG of Caherbane Co Clare. See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 29.

On 10 March (1915), in company with her sisters *Attack* and *Acheron*, *Ariel* was searching for a German submarine reported by the trawler *Man Island* near Aberdeen. At 10:10, *Attack* sighted *U-12* and opened fire. *Ariel*, commanded by Lt Cdr J V Creagh, sighted the submarine at 10:12 at about 2 nmi (2.3 mi; 3.7 km) and all three destroyers turned towards it. *U-12* dived and raised her periscope, which *Ariel* sighted at a distance of 200 yd (180 m). She turned to ram, sighting the conning tower under the water in the final moments before she struck the submarine at a fine angle. Within two minutes, the submarine had returned to the surface so that the crew could escape, but they found the conning tower hatch jammed, and most of the survivors managed their escape via the other hatches. The destroyers opened fire as the submarine lay on the surface, killing and injuring some of the escaping sailors. At 10:30, *U-12* sank, and the destroyers picked up 10 survivors; 19 lives had been lost. The damage to *Ariel’s* bow was so serious that she had to be towed into port.
Claremen in the British Navy


On Jan 3rd 1918, the patrol vessel **HM Blackwhale** struck a mine and sank in the North Sea off Fife Ness with the loss of twelve of her crew. She was the only British ship sunk by a mine on that day. The expected maneuverability of these whalers made them suitable for anti-submarine escorts in coastal waters.

**Signalman Michael Fitzmaurice**: Born in Liscannor 8th May 1880. Royal Navy on HMS *King George V*. (Guss O’Halloran) Formerly in the Royal Naval Reserve Service. The first **HMS King George V** was a *King George V* class of 1911 **Dreadnought**, with a displacement of 23,400 tonnes and an armament of ten 13.5 inch guns in twin gun turrets and a secondary armament of sixteen 4 inch guns and had a crew complement of 870, though this increased substantially by 1916 to 1,110, and had a length of 597 feet. Her sister-ships were HMS *Centurion*, HMS *Audacious* and HMS *Ajax* (see John Flanagan below). She survived the War.

**HMS King George V** took part in the **Battle of Jutland**, being the lead ship of the 1st Division of the 2nd Battle Squadron.

**Petty Officer William Edwin Fortescue**: Born in London. HMS *Lion* Royal Navy 179920. KM WW1 Star, Victory Medal, British War Medal, and Royal Humane Society (The Royal Humane Society is a charity that grants awards for acts of bravery in the saving of human life and, also, for the restoration of life by resuscitation.) (Ancestry.UK)

**HMS Lion** was a battlecruiser built for the Royal Navy in the 1910s. *Lion* served as the flagship of the Grand Fleet’s battlecruisers throughout World War I. She sank the German light cruiser *Cöln* during the Battle of Heligoland Bight and served as Vice Admiral Beatty's flagship at the battles of Dogger Bank and Jutland.
**Claremen in the British Navy**

**John Gallagher:** Born in Clare/Limerick, lived in Co Derry, died 7th Feb 1919 age 23 on the **HMS Erin’s Isle** (a Minesweeper), Royal Navy K/54407, G/M in England. Killed by a mine explosion in the Thames Estuary. Son of James and Mary Gallagher. (TB)

*Erin’s Isle* remained in Royal Navy service after the Armistice with Germany. On 6 February 1919 she sailed from Sheerness on the Isle of Sheppey and anchored for the night in the North Edinburgh Channel off the Thames Estuary, not far from the Nore sandbank. At 0600 hrs on 7 November she was still at anchor and her crew were called to rise. About five minutes later a drifting mine struck the forward part of her starboard side beneath the seamen’s quarters, blowing her practically in two. She sank in about two minutes with the loss of 23 lives. 28 survivors were rescued, of whom only about three were seamen from the quarters where the mine had struck. *(See Profiles of the Clare War Dead F-K)*

**Able Seaman John Griffin:** Born and lived in Kilrush, died 26th Nov 1914 age 29 on the **HMS Bulwark**, Royal Navy 215611. G/M in England. 738 lives were lost. Son of John and Mary Griffin of Pound Street Kilrush. (TB) Following the outbreak of the First World War, **HMS Bulwark**, along with the rest of the squadron was attached to the Channel Fleet, conducting patrols in the English Channel. On 26 November 1914, while anchored near Sheerness, she was destroyed by a large internal explosion with the loss of 736 men. Two of the 14 survivors died later in hospital. The explosion was likely to have been caused by the overheating of cordite charges that had been placed adjacent to a boiler room bulkhead. *(See Profiles of the Clare War Dead F-K)* Born 26th Nov 1885.

‘It was announced in the House of Commons this afternoon that the battleship ‘Bulwark’ was blown up in Sherness Harbour this morning. Only twelve lives were saved… It is believed that the cause of the disaster was an internal magazine explosion, which rent the ship asunder. There was no upheaval of water, and when the smoke cleared, the ship had entirely disappeared.’

**James Mills:** Newtown Street Ennistymon, served on **HMS Cumberland**. NCS (Guss O’Halloran)

**HMS Cumberland** was one of 10 Monmouth-class armoured cruisers built for the Royal Navy in the first decade of the 20th century. She was sent to West Africa after the beginning of World War I in August 1914 and captured 10 German merchant ships in September. **Cumberland** spent the rest of the war on convoy escort duties.
Claremen in the British Navy

7 Claremen died on the **HMS Monmouth & HMS Good Hope 1914**

The **HMS Monmouth** participated in the Battle of Coronel off the coast of Chile on 1 November 1914. Early in the battle, a 21 cm (8.2 inch) shell from **SMS Gneisenau** penetrated the armour of the forward 6 inch gun turret of **HMS Monmouth**. When it was clear that **Monmouth** was out of action, **Gneisenau** shifted fire to **HMS Good Hope**. A short while later, drifting and on fire, **Monmouth** was attacked by the newly arrived light cruiser **SMS Nürnberg** which fired seventy-five 10.5 cm (4.1 inch) shells at close range. **Monmouth** and **Good Hope** both sank with a combined loss of 1,570 lives. There were no survivors from either ship.

![Monmouth](image1)
![Good Hope](image2)

**Francis Kinsley:** Seafield, died Nov 1914 age 26 on the **HMS Monmouth**, Royal Navy, G/M in England

**Patrick Conway:** Kilrush, died Nov 1914 age 32 on the **HMS Monmouth**, Royal Navy, G/M in England.

**John Behan:** Kilkee, died Nov 1914 age 23 on the **HMS Monmouth**, Royal Navy, G/M in England.

**Edward Leggatt:** Kilrush, died Nov 1914 age 44 on the **HMS Good Hope**, Royal Navy, G/M in England.

**Batt Shea:** Trough Co Clare, died Nov 1914 age 36 on the **HMS Good Hope** off Chile, Royal Navy. G/M in England.

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**Lt Lancelot Alexander Montgomery:** Grandson of John Lecky Phelps of Waterpark, Clonlara. Elder son of Major General Robert Arundel Kerr Montgomery C.B. DSO and Annie his wife. He was torpedoed on **HMS Good Hope**, Flagship of Rear Admiral Sir Christopher Craddock, which sank with all hands in the Battle of Coronel, South Pacific, All Saints Day 1914. Born at Meernt April 2nd 1888.’

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**Able Seaman Albert Richard Thompson:** Cappaduff, Mountshannon. Royal Navy. Died in November 1914 on board **HMS Good Hope** in the Battle of Colonel off the coast of Chile. ‘All of Craddock’s cruisers **Good Hope** and **Monmouth** and the light cruiser **Glasgow** were sunk with all their crew numbering 1600 sailors. Albert Thompson from Cappaduff was one of the sailors on board the cruiser **HMS Good Hope**. Albert was aged 29 years and left a young wife behind him. His name is remembered on the Royal Naval Memorial in Plymouth, England. For years a memorial plate for Albert was on the wall of St Caimins Church in Mountshannon. But it was removed during one of the Art festivals and never replaced.’ (World War 1 Stories written by Sean Glennon)
Anthony Albert Hutchinson: Born in Limerick. 2nd Air mechanic HMRAF with the Royal Navy on the HMS “Ark Royal”, which was the Royal Navy's first purpose built aircraft carrier, and as well as other duties during WW1 it also served in the Gallipoli campaign. He died on active service on Nov 4th 1919 at Malta, aged 32. Originally buried in Capuccini Naval Cemetery and then moved to Kalkara Naval Cemetery in Malta. ‘Erected by Margaret & Harriet in loving memory of their father George Hutchinson who died July 31st 1923 aged 75 years and of their brother Anthony Albert, 2nd Air mechanic of HMRAF who died while on active service on Nov 4th 1919 at Malta aged 32 years.’ Taken from a gravestone in Mountshannon Church of Ireland Graveyard.


Thomas Rowan: Kilrush, died Jan 1915 age 34 on the submarine HMS/ME-10, Royal Navy, G/M in England.

HMS Ark Royal was the first ship in history designed and built as a seaplane carrier. In World War I, Ark Royal participated in the Gallipoli Campaign in early 1915 with her aircraft conducting aerial reconnaissance and observation missions. In January 1918, several of her aircraft unsuccessfully attacked the German battlecruiser SMS Goeben when she sortied from the Dardanelles to attack Allied ships in the area. The ship left the area later in the year to support seaplanes conducting anti-submarine patrols over the southern Aegean Sea.
During WW1, Germany operated a policy of 'unrestricted submarine warfare', or sinking merchant vessels on sight. By the end of the war, more than 3,000 British flagged merchant and fishing vessels had been sunk and nearly 15,000 merchant seamen had died.

**Carrigaholt**: Captain John O’Gorman, Attendant John Sullivan.

**Clarecastle**: Richard Cole, 2nd Mate Robert Cole, Arthur Considine, Able Seaman W Forrestor, Able Seaman William Foundation, William McCready, Firemen J McMahon, Ordinary Seaman William Murphy

**Ennis**: Fireman John T Frawley, Maurice Michael Mulcahy, 4th Engineer J L Tuohy,

**Kildysart**: Thomas Cleary.  **Kilkee**: Trimmer Edward Matthus.  **Killaloe**: Trimmer Patrick Burke, Arthur Simms,

**Kilrush**: Michael Galvin, C P O Gerrard Hilliard, Thomas Martin, Able Seaman W Martin, Patrick Milican, William Poole, Con Reynolds, John Reynolds, Thomas Twyford, Merchant Seaman Pat Walsh,

**Lahinch**: Horseman J Hanrahan.  **Liscannor**: 2nd Mate Robert Browne.  **Moyasta**: Jeremiah Fanaghan

**Scariff**: Mess Room Steward John Connolly.  **Scattery Island**: Boy Felix Brennan.

**Able Seaman James Gorman DSM**: Pound St / Hector St Kilrush. Royal Naval Air Force. Awarded the *Distinguished Service Medal* for bravery 11/5/1917. KM

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**30066 - 11 MAY 1917**

Honours to the **Mercantile Marine**.

..... in recognition of zeal and devotion to duty shown in carrying on the trade of the country during the war: To receive the **Distinguished Service Medal**.

A.B. James Gorman.
Claremen in the The Merchant Navy

Co Clare:

Patrick Milican: Born in Kilrush, died 4th Nov 1916 age 19 on the SS Huntsvale, Mercantile Marine Unit, G/M in England. Son of Michael and Bridget Milican. (TB)

The 5,609 ton British cargo/transport SS Huntsville was torpedoed and sunk by German submarine UB-43, on the 4th Nov 1916, 200 miles east of Malta en route from Salonika to Algiers. Seven men were lost.

Michael O'Connor: Died 15th July 1917 age 33 on the HMS Redbreast torpedoed in the Aegean Sea, Mercantile Marine Reserve, G/M in England. Son of John and Catherine O'Connor, Music Hill, Co Clare. Husband of Margaret O'Connor, Glasgow. (TB) HMS Redbreast was a passenger/cargo ship requisitioned by the British Government during World War I, and used as a messenger ship and antisubmarine Q ship. She was torpedoed and sunk by UC-38 in the Aegean Sea on 15 July 1917 whilst on passage from Skyros to the Doro Channel. Forty two crew were killed.

HMS Redbreast was a passenger/cargo ship requisitioned by the British Government during World War I, and used as a messenger ship and antisubmarine Q ship. She was torpedoed and sunk by UC-38 in the Aegean Sea on 15 July 1917 whilst on passage from Skyros to the Doro Channel. Forty two crew were killed.

Captain John O’Gorman: Born in Carrigaholt lived in Co Antrim, died 2nd Nov 1917 age 35 on the SS Jessie, Mercantile Marine Unit, G/M in Antrim. He is also remembered on the Memorial Stone in the grounds of Kilkee Catholic Church. Son of John and Bridget O’Gorman, Carrigaholt. (TB) At 4 a.m North of Flamborough Head, the Jessie was attacked from behind by gun fire from a German submarine U-35. The Master (John O’Gorman) ordered the vessel hard to port attempting to run for the shore, then along with the chief engineer and two seaman took to one of the lifeboats. As the ship’s engine were still engaged and the vessel still making way, the lifeboat capsized in the launch attempt, drowning the four men. The enemy submarine continued to fire at the Jessie which was hit several times whilst the 2nd engineer managed to stop the the ship’s engines within a mile of the shore. He and the rest of the crew got away in the other lifeboat and pulled to Filey as they watched the Jessie drift ashore and beech herself, eventually becoming a total loss.

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Claremen in the The Merchant Navy

THIS SCROLL IS WRITTEN TO HONOUR
THAT GREAT COMPANY OF OUR MEN
WHO THOUGH TRAINED ONLY
TO THE PEACEFUL TRAFFIC OF THE SEA
YET IN THE HOUR OF NATIONAL DANGER
GAVE THEMSELVES WITH THE ANCIENT SKILL
AND ENDURANCE OF THEIR BREED
TO FACE NEW PERILS AND NEW CRIEULITIES OF WAR
AND IN A RIGHT CAUSE
SERVED FEARLESSLY TO THE END.
AND THIS IS WRITTEN FURTHER TO ENSURE
THAT AMONG THE REST
SHALL BE EVER FRESHLY REMEMBERED
THE NAME AND SERVICE OF
PHILIP HAROLD JAFFA
The following Claremen fought in the Royal Flying Corps.

**Corofin:** Bindon Blood MID, Charles Newman Blood.

**Ennis:** Herbert George Adams, Lt. P F Hassett.

**Ennistymon:** Private Patrick O’Loughlin, John Henry McLaurin.

**Kilkee:** George Alfred Bothwell, 2\textsuperscript{nd} Class Air Mechanic Michael Finucane.

**Kilmaley:** Stephen Griffin.

**Kilrush:** James Mitchell, Stephen Casey, John Daly, Michael Tinnican, A Woodroote, Thomas O Donnell, James Quinn, Michael Shannon, A Woodroote, Pat McInerney.

**Loop Head:** P Webber.  **Mullagh:** Major Tim Killeen.

**Newmarket on Fergus:** The Hon Phaidrig L O’Brien, Chief Petty Officer Henry Wisdom.

**O’Briensbridge:** Lieutenant Desmond Arthur

**Parteen:** Francis Beresford Gloster.

**Tulla:** Stephen Ryan

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**Captain Bindon Blood MID:** He was born on 30\textsuperscript{th} Dec 1881, lived in Rockforest House, Corofin, Co Clare. He died 29\textsuperscript{th} Sept 1915 age 33, Royal Flying Corps. He was burnt to death. Mentioned in Despatches. G/M in England.
**Major Tim Killeen**: Molosky House Mullagh. Royal Flying Corps. KM. Initially he joined the Merchant Navy and was serving on the ‘SS Roauoke’ which was torpedoed in 1916 which barely made it to port. He then joined the Royal Flying Corps where he was engaged in active service until the end of the war.

He took part in many thrilling combats. On one occasion he had to encounter the redoubtable **Baron von Richthofen (The Red Baron)** when his observer was killed. In 1921 he joined the Free State National Army. He became a lawyer in 1927 and died in 1937 age 41. *(Clare Champion)*

‘Timothy Killeen, my grand-uncle, enlisted at the start of the war. He was a Flying Officer in the RAF, and though his medals identify him as lieutenant, he ended his military career as a major. He may have had an encounter with the Red Baron at one time, during which his observer was killed. He died in 1937, and he is buried in Clare in the Kilmurray family vault. His brother George (my grandfather) played rugby for Ireland, and his sister Susan was Michael Collins’s girlfriend (it’s said that he wrote the poem ‘1916’ for her). His niece Susan was in the RAF in World War II. I received these items from my aunts in Dun Laoghaire.’ *(Mark Killeen)*
At best, the early tanks could achieve a top speed of **4 miles per hour**. On the battlefield this was rarely realised and in many cases **infantry moved far faster**. The machines were crewed by a **Lieutenant, 3 Drivers and 4 Gunners**, of which one was an NCO. Interior conditions were truly appalling, being a combination of intense heat, noise and exhaust from the engine, violent movement as the tank crossed the ground and molten metal splash as bullets struck the plating. Men would often be violently sick or badly incapacitated by the conditions and were often in no fit state to continue after quite short journeys. It was difficult to communicate within the tank and with men and other tanks outside.

**The tank officer often had to get out and walk, to reconnoiter his path or to work with the infantry.** The tanks also proved to be mechanically unreliable and vulnerable to shellfire. Some tanks carried a wire frame on the roof, designed to deflect grenades. Nonetheless, the first appearance of the tanks caused considerable alarm to the Germans until they realised their shortcomings and began to organise tactics and armament to defend against them.

**Thomas Casey:** Tubber, died August 1918 age 41 in the Battle of Amiens, Australian Infantry, G/M in France. He went to Australia when he was 35. ‘The tank that Pte Casey was attached was hit by a shell and the crew and Lewis Gun team evacuated the tank. They went forward about 50 X when a shell exploded in the middle of the Lewis Gun team and they were all either killed or wounded. As far as I can ascertain Pte Casey was not killed outright.

This took place on the outskirts of the village of Mericourt.’ Son of Michael and Honora Casey Moyrhee Tubber. MA (TB)
Captain Frederick Bertram Keogh MC + Bar: He was born in 1872 in Roscommon. He lived at Birchfield, Liscannor. He was killed in action 8th Aug 1918, in the Battle of Amiens, Tank Corps 1st Bn., G/M in France. He was the son of Cornelious A Keogh. He was killed in action with his orderly Gunner Henry Smith. He was Awarded the Military Cross for Gallantry in 1917 (in the Battle of Arras?). ‘For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. When his tank was broken down, he kept in action for twenty four hours, working all his guns and giving great assistance to the infantry in repelling two counter-attacks at a critical time. When the situation was safe he withdrew, handing over his guns to the infantry. He had been for several hours without infantry support’ From the London Gazette 20th Aug 1917. (TB) 60 tanks - mostly Mark 1's - saw action at the Battle of Arras in April 1917. Very wet and cold weather, creating poor ground conditions, proved the undoing of the tanks on this occasion. Many broke down and many more simply could not tackle the ground and became bogged down. Battle of Amiens: In front of Amiens on 8 August 1918, tanks played a central role in the crushing success of the Allied attack. 450 of them took part in the Amiens attack, where the Whippets and various armoured cars penetrated deep behind the German defences. In conjunction with the new artillery and infantry tactics, tanks proved to be useful in crushing wire; over-running machine gun posts and strong points; helping infantry through the streets of destroyed villages. However, tank losses were significant and within days of the initial assault the Tank Corps was a temporarily spent force. (See Profiles of the Clare War Dead F-K)

Lt.(A./C'apt.) Frederick Bertram Keogh, M.C., Conn. Rangers, Spec.Res., and Tank Corps. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He was in charge of eight Tanks to cover the withdrawal of the infantry brigade, and made repeated attacks on the advancing enemy, and so prevented him from enveloping the left flank of the brigade, which was totally unprotected. Later, a group of Lewis gun teams from the Tank battalion were cut 'off, when he ordered two of his Tanks to go to their relief, himself accompanying and directing the operation. For many hours he displayed the utmost gallantry and coolness. (M.C.gazetted 16th August, 1917.)

Claremen in the Artillery

The Royal Regiment of Artillery at the time of the Great War comprised three elements:

**The Royal Horse Artillery**: armed with light, mobile, horse-drawn guns that in theory provided firepower in support of the cavalry and in practice supplemented the Royal Field Artillery.

**The Royal Field Artillery**: the most numerous arm of the artillery, the horse-drawn RFA was responsible for the medium calibre guns and howitzers deployed close to the front line and was reasonably mobile. It was organised into brigades.

**The Royal Garrison Artillery**: developed from fortress-based artillery located on British coasts. From 1914 when the army possessed very little heavy artillery it grew into a very large component of the British forces. It was armed with heavy, large calibre guns and howitzers that were positioned some way behind the front line and had immense destructive power.

**Ballynacally**: Gunner John Coffey.  **Ballyvaughan**: Gunner John Ryan, John Scully.

**Barefield**: Gunner John Connell, Shoeing Smith / Blacksmith Patrick McNamara, Patrick Shanahan.

**Broadford**: Patrick Marsh.  **Carrigaholt**: Gunner Patrick McGrath.  **Carron**: James Lynch.

**Clarecastle**: Gunner Francis O’Brien, John O’Donoghue, Gunner J Sullivan.

**Clonlara**: Driver John Joseph Ryan.  **Cooraclare**: Gunner Michael O’Grady.

**Corofin**: Sergeant Stephen Considine, John Taffe.  **Doonbeg**: Private Thomas Galvin, Martin McMahon, Michael O’Brien, Michael Ryan

Charles Joseph Perry DCM: (1882-1955) Castleview Cottage (Fomerla House) Tulla. He served as a gunner with the Royal Field Artillery – reg no. L31269. He was awarded 5 medals including a Distinguished Conduct Medal DCM (21st Oct 1918) and he survived the War. He died in England in 1955. (Eric Shaw) He is the brother of Frederick and Emily Perry.

Lt R.H. Stacpoole MC: Edenvale Ballyea. Royal Field Artillery. Awarded the Military Cross for Gallantry. Lieut. R.H. Stacpoole, Royal Field Artillery, has been awarded the Military Cross for gallantry and devotion to duty in the field. He is the son of Mrs. Stacpoole, Edenvale, Ennis, Co. Clare, and was educated at Cheltenham College, and in July, 1914, entered the Royal Marine College at Woolwich. He was gazetted to the Royal Field Artillery in February, 1915 and went to France in May, 1915. Date of Publication: Friday, November 23, 1917. Our Heroes website. A brother of George Stacpoole. Lt Richard Hassard Stacpoole. 30389/19 Nov 1917;30590/22 Mar 1918(C). MC. Royal Field Artillery. (fold3.com)
Claremen in the Artillery

**Kilmihil:** John Hehir.  **Kilmurry:** Lt Michael Greene, Gunner James Madigan.

**Kilnaboy:** Gunner Patrick Mears.


**Kilshanny:** Gunner Terence McMahon.  **Labasheeda:** Frank Buffham, Gunner Thomas O’Shea.

**Lahinch:** Michael Skerritt.

**Liscannor:** Gunner Francis Sweeney.

**Miltown Malbay:** Driver Edward Cassidy, Gunner Patrick Corry, James Kelly, Private Michael Marrinan, Stephen Scanlon, Gunner John Sexton.

**Newmarket on Fergus:** Gunner Patrick Murphy.

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**Sgt-Major P Clune DCM:** Pound St /Hector St Kilrush. Royal Garrison Artillery 27067. He was awarded the **Distinguished Conduct Medal** in Oct 1918. ‘He had done consistent good work, and set a fine example of devotion to duty on occasions under heavy shell fire’. (SR) **See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 177.**

**Gunner James T Sullivan MM:** Clarecastle. Royal Field Artillery. He was awarded the **Military Medal** for ‘Devotion to duty and conspicuous gallantry’ on 18th July 1916. He rescued an observation party in a dug out that was being shelled. (CJ)
Claremen in the Artillery

**Quilty**: Martin McInerney.

**Quin**: John Bridgman, William L Dolaghty, Gunner Patrick Moylan, Lieut Robert Hallam Studdert DSO MC MID.

**Ruan**: Frank (Francis) Murphy.  **Scariff**: Private Patrick Fahey, John Rodgers.

**Sixmilebridge**: Gunner Michael Burke, James Frost, James Hehir (alias James Foley), Jeffrey O’Connell, Michael Quilligan.

**Tuamgraney**: Lt Thomas Lysaght.


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**Lt. O’Moore Charles Creagh MID**: Caherbane, Newmarket on Fergus, Co Clare, killed in action 23rd March 1918 age 21 near Mont St Quentin. Royal Field Artillery C Battery 108th Army Brigade (32nd Div). G/M in France. Mentioned in Despatches 21st May 1918 for his ‘gallant and distinguished service in the field’ (TB)‘At the Battle of Messines he was taking signals from the infantry to his headquarters for fifteen hours, and on 1 September was on liason for the third attack, when he was reported killed in action at Fevillacourt, near Mont St Quentin, 23 March 1918. He took part in the actions at Richebourg 17 May 1915, and those at the Hohenzollern Redoubt, Loos, Vermelles, Ypres, on the Somme (Probably fought in the Battle of Albert, 1–13 July), at Messines and Passchendael etc, and when he was killed, he was within a few days of obtaining his Captaincy.’ From De Ruvigny’s Roll of Honour.

**Jack Lynch**: Born June 1889 at Ballykildea (Killaloe) the youngest of the five children of Pat Lynch and Mary (Delia) Mullins. Killed in action in France 3 May 1915. Posthumously awarded the Croix de Guerre. He was a brother of Denis Lynch, Thomas Street, who died 2 December 1970.’ (The Killaloe Anthology Sean Kierse) 2nd Lt John Lynch. (Same person ?) Royal Field Artillery. Died 3rd May 1915. Age 25. G/M Menin Gate. Husband of Mrs. W. M. Moore (formerly Lynch). (See Profiles of the Clare War Dead L-M)
Claremen in the Machine Gun Corps

In its short history the **Machine Gun Corps** gained an enviable record for heroism as a front line fighting force. Indeed, in the latter part of the war, as tactics changed to defence in depth, it commonly served well in advance of the front line.

It had a less enviable record for its casualty rate. Some 170,500 officers and men served in the MGC with 62,049 becoming casualties, including 12,498 killed, earning it the nickname 'the Suicide Club'.

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**Ballyvaughan**: John Donohoe.

**Broadford**: Michael Cooney.

**Ennis**: F Coffey, Michael Martin Gilligan, Peter Molony, Jack O’Leary, Patrick Ryan.

**Kildysart**: Thomas Clancy/Claney.

**Kilrush**: Thomas Cusack, Pat Sullivan, Vincent Mitchinson Cox.

**Lisdoonvarna**: Robert Burke Forster.

**Newmarket on Fergus**: William Hourigan.

**Ogonnelloe**: Thomas Coonan MM

**Toonagh**: Private James Blake

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**Thomas Coonan MM**: Born in 1895 in Ogonnelloe, killed in action 7th May 1918 age 23, Guards Machine Gun Regiment 4th Bn 76 (3rd Guards Brigade, Guards Division), G/M in France. He was awarded the **Military Medal at the Somme** (Probably in the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September 1916). (TB) He is the grand uncle of Myles Dungan the renowned historian and broadcaster.

He was the fifth of six children (three boys and three girls) of William Coonan, a National School teacher and his wife Margaret Coonan of Ogonelloe, Co. Clare He enlisted in Llanelli, Carmarthenshire in 1914. His first service number was 18123 Pte., 5 battalion Grenadier Guards – his service number in the Guards Machine Gun Regiment was 76. He was ‘gazetted’ on 10 October 1916 – his name appeared in the *London Gazette* as having been awarded a Military Medal while serving with the Grenadier Guards.

**Myles Dungan**
Claremen in the Cavalry

The British cavalry were the first British Army units to see action during the First World War. Drummer Edward Thomas of the 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards is reputed to have fired the first British shot shortly after 06:30 on 22 August 1914, near the Belgian village of Casteau.


Ennis: James F Cahill, William Carroll, Thomas Connolly, Cadet William Purcell.

Kilrush: Matthew Honan, Thomas Houlihan, Michael Egan, Chris Kiely, T Liddane, John Hickey.


Co Clare: Thomas Christopher Somers, George Mills, Timothy Heenan, William E Harvey, William Woulfe, Lieut. James Roche-Kelly MID.

Edward Patrick Cullinan: Ennis, died March 1918 age 30, Lord Strathcona’s Horse, Royal Canadians, G/M in France.

The Last Great Cavalry Charge of WW1 took place at Moreuil Woods in France, on March 30 1918. The enemy had launched a massive attack and had broken through the front lines and held the woods. It was decided to drive the enemy out. One squadron each from the Royal Canadian Dragoons and Lord Strathcona’s Horse entered the wood, dismounted and cleared the wood right through to the eastern face. Meanwhile another squadron from the Lord Strathcona’s Horse under the command of Lieutenant Flowerdew moved up to the rear of the woods with the idea of cutting off the enemy’s retreat. They included Edward Patrick Cullinan from Ennis.
Claremen in the Medical Corps

Medical care throughout the First World War was largely the responsibility of the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC). The RAMC’s job was both to maintain the health and fighting strength of the forces in the field and ensure that in the event of sickness or wounding they were treated and evacuated as quickly as possible.


Clarecastle: Jim Long, Private Timothy Power.

Clonlara: Captain Frank Sheppard Gillespie. Corofin: Private Michael Francis O’Sullivan


Kildysart: Captain T.G.Garry, Surgeon Lieutenant Michael Meehan.

Kilkee: Dr P C Hickey, Major Dr Augustus J Hickey MC.

Killaloe: Paul James Courtney, Frank Hope, Joseph Ivis, Private James Renehan.

Dr Augustine (Austin) Thomas Frost OBE: 1878-1949. Beechlawn, Newmarket on Fergus. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corps. and was a Lieutenant in 1904, rising to Lt Colonel. He specialised in VD and Dermatology. He served in Hong Kong, India and England. During the first World War Austin served for a time in Mesopotamia (Iraq) and Egypt. This was part of the Indian Division. He was awarded the OBE in 1919. The Frosts of County Clare, Ireland by Janet Frost (Clare Library)
Claremen in the Medical Corps


**Liscannor:** Patrick Darcy, Mortimer O’Brien.

**Lisdoonvarna:** Private Thomas Brennan. **Miltown Malbay:** Michael Sexton.

**Newmarket on Fergus:** Dr Augustine (Austin) Thomas Frost OBE, Capt W Alfred Taylor.

**Parteen:** Dr Patrick Lane MC. **Scariff:** Major Francis Cornelius Sampson M B DSO MID.

**Sixmilebridge:** Dr Michael Joseph O’Flynn: Sixmilebridge, died Sept 1918 near Peronne, Royal Army Medical Corps, G/M in France.

**Tulla:** Lt. Henry Spaight. **Co Clare:** P Crimmins, Surgeon John Hill, Harold Duncan Smith, Leroy Laurence Tracy/Tracey.

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**Major Francis Cornelius Sampson M B DSO MID:** Moynoe House, Scariff. Royal Army Medical Corps. Mentioned in Despatches twice (Oct 8th 1914 & Oct 15th 1914). He was also awarded the Distinguished Service Order DSO in Jan 1916 ‘in recognition of his distinguished conduct and devotion to duty’. He was the son of Dr F C Sampson.

**Major Dr Augustus J Hickey MC:** Carlton Terrace Kilkee. (aged 28 in 1916) Doctor in Kilmihil. Enlisted in May 1915. Royal Army Medical Corps. *(CJ)* He was awarded the Military Cross for distinguished service at the Battle of Messines June 1917. He had previously been awarded honour Parchments for the Battles of Ginchy, the Somme and Ypres. Son of Dr P C Hickey. *(SR)* T/Captain Augustus Joseph Hickey. 30287/17 Sep 1917(C). MC. Royal Army Medical Corps. (fold3.com)
Claremen in the Medical Corps

Dr Patrick Lane MC + Bar: from Quinpool, Parteen. Joined the British army after graduating from the National University. Serving in the Royal Army Medical Corps, he led the stretcher-bearers and had to provide medical treatment for injured soldiers in the middle of the battlefields under heavy fire before they were brought to safety. According to a historical account, on one occasion, Dr Lane was speaking to another doctor when a shell fell between them, killing his medical colleague. As a result of his service and bravery, he was awarded the Military Cross, one of the highest decorations that the British state can award. Later in the war, he was awarded an additional bar. Having returned to the mid-west, he worked with Limerick County Council as a doctor, tuberculosis officer, and school examiner. He died in 1968 at the age of 72. (Limerick Museum) T/Captain Patrick Joseph Lane. 29837/25 Nov 1916(C)(MC): 30023/17 Apr 1917(C)(Bar). MC+Bar. Royal Army Medical Corps. (fold3.com)

Private Nightingale MM: Ennis. Royal Army Medical Corps. He was awarded the Military Medal in May 1919 for bravery in the field. (SR) See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 182. Private F Nightingale RAMC 63822 was awarded the MM.
Clare Women in WW1

**Bunratty:** Nurse Teresa Mary Rose Enright (Queen Alexandra’s Imperial Military Nursing Service).

**Clarecastle:** Mary Agnes Murphy (Queen Alexandra’s Royal Army Nursing Corps).

**Ennis:** Delia Davoren, Nora Davoren, Nurse Annie Galvin, Sister Nellie Galvin MM, Sister Margaret Mary McInerney, Matron Neylon, Nurse Margaret O’Gorman, Nurse Elizabeth Grace Stewart.

**Kildysart:** Miss M O’Connell-Bianconi MM (FANY).

**Kilkee:** Nurse Hickey.

**Kilrush:** Nurse Margaret Burke, Nurse Cissie Moore DCM, Nurse Patricia Stephens.

**Knock:** Elizabeth Gore Hickman (Red Cross). Irene Gore-Hickman (Voluntary Aid Detachment)

**Miltown Malbay:** Nurse Nance Meade, Nurse Nellie Meade, Mary Kennelly (Queen Alexandra’s Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve). **Mountshannon:** Henrietta Joan Turner.

**Newmarket on Fergus:** Nurse Nellie Hogan, The Hon K Beryl O’Brien VAD, Miss M Eva Stoney YMCA.

**Quin:** Nurse Margaret O’Grady, Nurse Mary O Grady.

**Ruan:** Lt. Miss Tierney (Australian Red Cross).

**Scariff:** Nance O’Carroll, Sister Elizabeth Gertrude Reidy.

**Sixmilebridge:** Agnes McMahon.

**Tulla:** Nurse Eileen (Mary) Brady-Browne, Emily Rose Perry VAD.

**Co Clare:** Ellen Considine (Red Cross),

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**Driver Mary (Molly) O’Connell-Bianconi SRN MM MID:**

Lackanashinnagh, Kildysart. She was awarded the Military Medal (along with 6 other colleagues) for rescuing wounded from an ammunition dump which had been set on fire by enemy bombs, during a German air raid near St Omer in France. ‘For conspicuous devotion to duty during a hostile air raid. All these lady drivers were out with their cars during the raid, picking up and in every way assisting the wounded and injured. They showed great bravery and coolness, and were an example to all ranks.’ In August 1917, aged twenty one, Molly was sent, with a contingent of FANYs, to Amiens in France.
6,000 women from the island of Ireland were involved in the Red Cross, St John’s Ambulance and associated work during the war. An estimated 2,000 women became Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs) and were posted to the frontline or to hospitals nursing wounded soldiers in the UK or Ireland. They nursed soldiers in the midst of the unspeakable horrors on the front, often with little or no training or equipment.

Thousands of women also left domestic life for the first time to work in munitions and other factories. More than 2,000 workers, mainly women, found employment in the five national munitions factories that were set up in Dublin, Cork, Waterford and Galway during the war.

Sphagnum moss, known for its antiseptic and absorbent qualities, was found to be an ideal filling for the thousands of surgical dressings that were in great demand during the war. A two ounce dressing could absorb two pounds in weight and it contained iodine, a natural antiseptic.

Further employment came through contracts that were awarded to Irish companies for the manufacture of such items as aeroplane cloth, uniforms and Foxford blankets.

At the Lambkin Snuff and Tobacco Factory, on Merchant’s Quay in Cork, business thrived during the war years as the mainly female staff worked on mixtures and plug tobaccos from the war office to send to various expeditionary forces. It is said that the women often put love notes inside the tobacco tins. Many more women opted for volunteer work. Thousands enrolled in the Irish Women’s Association, preparing soldiers’ “comforts”, including cigarettes, knitted hats, gloves and socks, for parcels being sent to men in Prisoner of War camps in Germany.
Clare Women in WW1

Women's Auxiliary Army Corps

Formed in March 1917. Initially called the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAACs), they eventually took the formal title of Queen Mary's Army Auxiliary Corps. The women enlisted for a year or duration, whichever was longer. They were used on a wide variety of tasks, principally in clerical, canteen, motor transport, storehouses and telephone and postal roles. Approximately 10,000 WAACs saw service, most in France and Flanders.


Nellie Galvin MM: Ennis. A Sister in the No 10 Stationary Hospital in St. Omer.

She was awarded the Military Medal ‘for bravery and devotion to duty during an enemy air raid (on the night of 22-23 May 1918) when four bombs were dropped on the building occupied by the hospital causing much damage to the ward in which Sister Galvin was on night duty. She remained in the ward attending the sick, several of whom were wounded, and carried on her work as if nothing had happened. She displayed the greatest coolness and devotion to duty’. The medal was presented to Sister Galvin by the King at Buckingham Palace on the 18th December 1919. In addition she received the 1914 Star as a member of the Civic Hospital Reserve and the British War and Victory Medals.

In 1930 she joined Queen Alexandra’s Imperial Military Nursing Service, and was employed on trooping duties in the transport Nevasa. In 1931 she was posted to the Military Hospital in Hollywood, Northern Ireland. She resigned from active Reserve duty in July 1934, and went on to run the Clare Champion newspaper. John Galvin (See Clare WW1 Individual Profiles)

Nurse Cissie Moore DCM: Kilrush. In July 1919 she was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal by the Greek Government for bravery and distinguished service at Salonika during the war. She was the only Irish nurse to have received that honour. (SR) See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 182.
Claremen in the Army Veterinary Corps

When the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) embarked for France in August 1914, its strength included 122 commissioned A.V.C. officers and 797 other ranks. Its principal responsibility was for the BEF's 53,000 horses. The strength of the A.V.C. and the military animals increased dramatically as the reinforcements for the BEF and the New Armies came into the field.

A Veterinary Service was attached to each division of the BEF under an Assistant Director (ADVS) to serve at the divisional and brigade level; Mobile Veterinary Sections met the needs of the various divisions in the field. At a maximum, 60 divisional A.V.C. Mobile Sections, and 20 horse hospitals, with appropriate support units, were established in France and Flanders.

Not only did the A.V.C.'s strength and animal clientel increase dramatically in numbers as the war developed on the Western Front, the range of animals it dealt with also widened. In all, the A.V.C. handled over 2 million animal 'clients' in the 51 months duration of the war. The 'Returned to Duty' numbers after treatment by the A.V.C. reached 80%.

James Mathew White; Tulla, died March 1916 age 32, a vet in the Army Veterinary Corps, G/M in France.

C Armstrong: Kilrush, Army Veterinary Corps

Walter Gill: Kilrush Clare. Army Veterinary Corps

Thomas Soffe: Kilrush, Army Veterinary Corps, Invalided.

John Cunningham: Burton Street Kilrush. He was a farmer aged 48 when he enlisted in 1916 in the Army Veterinary Corps 20705. He was previously in the Royal Field Artillery for 20 years.
The war of 1914-1918 relied on engineering. Without engineers there would have been no supply to the armies, because the RE’s maintained the railways, roads, water supply, bridges and transport. There would have been no communications, because the RE’s maintained the telephones, wireless and other signalling equipment. There would have been little cover for the infantry and no positions for the artillery, because the RE’s designed and built the front-line fortifications. They also maintained the guns and other weapons. By 1917, it had grown to a total manpower of 295,668, which was twelve times bigger than the peacetime establishment.

**Ballynacally**: CSM Michael Flynn.

**Bodyke**: John Cahill.

**Clarecastle / Ballyea**: Tommy Kinnane, Lt Francis (Frank) James Slattery MID.

**Corofin**: Charles Newman Blood.

**Doolin**: Denis Joseph Sheehan.

**Doora/ Barefield**: There were five Lynch brothers from Deerpark (James, John, Thomas, Michael and Patrick), Doora who joined the Ordnance Survey Office in Ennis in the 1890s and who, when qualified, joined the Royal Engineers. CQMS Michael Lynch.


Thomas Casserley: Ennis, died April 1918 age 21, Corps of Royal Engineers, G/M in France. Tot (Thomas) Casserly, born 1897, joined the Ordnance Survey Dept, in Dublin, as a temporary Civilian Assistant in 1914. He resigned his position in 1915 and joined the British Army. He was killed in action. He is buried in a military grave at Wanquentin, Northern France.
Claremen in the Royal Engineers

**Ennistymon:** Robert Atcheson, Michael T Brosnan, James Haslam, John O’Loughlin MID, Thomas O’Loughlin.

**Inagh:** William Callinan. **Kilfenora:** Thomas Duggan.

**Kilkee:** Captain Patrick F B Hickey DSO MID. **Kilkishen:** Sapper John Godfrey King.

**Killaloe:** Sapper James Buckley, Sapper Michael Donlan, James Gissane, Driver Michael Joseph Gissane, Michael O’Connell, John Powell, Private John Regan, Martin Ryan, Sapper Michael Ryan.

**Kilmurry McMahon:** Lance Corporal Thomas O’Gorman.

**Kilmihil:** Corporal J O’Shea. **Knock:** John Whelan.

**Kilrush:** Patrick Scanlan, John Blake, Chris Bolger, James Cahill, John Galvin MID, Martin Gorman, Patrick Griffin, RB MacLachan, John McNamara.


**Newmarket on Fergus:** Francis James Gilligan, Michael Nash, Sapper John Sweeney.

**Quin:** Sapper Michael Neylon. **Sixmilebridge:** Thomas Naughton O’Mara MID MSM.

**Co Clare:** Edward Vivian Morgan Crofton, Frank K Fawl, Lieutenant R W George, CSM James McNamara, John O’Dea.

**Captain Patrick F B Hickey DSO MID:** Carlton Terrace Kilkee. Royal Engineers, Indian Army. *Mentioned in Despatches* for distinguished conduct with the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force. Son of Dr P C Hickey. *(SR)* *(See Clare WW1 Individual Profiles)* He was also awarded the DSO in 1918. *(Joe Power)* **HICKEY, P. F. B.** (D.S.O. L.G. 7.2.18), Lt. (Temp. Capt.), Indian Army, R. of Off. *(The VC and DSO Volume III)*

**Frank K Fawl MM:** Clare. Royal Engineers 25210. He was awarded the Military Medal and Parchment Certificate for gallant conduct and devotion to duty at Vimy Ridge in April 1917. His father was Mr P Fawl a Clareman who lived in Limerick. *(CJ)*
Corporal J A Hayes MM: Royal Engineers. Former General Post Office Clerk in Ennis, awarded the Military Medal in August 1916 ‘For bravery displayed at the battle of the Somme’. ‘He has received the congratulations of his Commanding Officer Captain Gerard W Williams R.E., who writes “I congratulate you and feel sure that if you carry on as you have done that other and higher decorations will come to you”. And so are his old friends in Ennis.’

Private Thomas Naughton O’Mara MID MSM: Sixmilebridge. He was a Teacher aged 22 when he enlisted in Nov 1898 into the Royal Engineers 2521. He served in St Helena and South Africa. During WW1 he served in France from the 12th Aug 1914 to the 11th Dec 1918 as a Clerk in the 3rd Echelon Headquarters. On the 31st Dec 1915 he featured in the Gazette when he was mentioned in Despatches for gallantry and distinguished conduct in the field. He was awarded the Medaille Militaire on the 24th Feb 1916. He was awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in Aug 1917. He again featured in the Gazette on the 14th June 1918 when he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal. He was discharged in March 1920. His father was Daniel O’Mara.(British army WW1 Pension Recordsfold3.com)


Lt Francis (Frank) James Slattery MID: Darragh, Ballyea died 9th Jan 1919, Royal Engineers Unit 8th Field Coy., G/M in Ballynacally (Kilcreest) Cemetery. Son of Thomas Slattery, of Fergus View, Darragh, Ennis. He was Mentioned in Despatches dated April 7th 1918 ‘for gallant and distinguished services in the field’. (TB) He contracted the Spanish Flu in London, while returning home after being in a prisoner of war camp for about nine months. His incarceration may have contributed to his death as he may have been in a weakened state after his prison experience.
Claremen in the Army Service Corps

The unsung heroes of the army in the Great War - the ASC, Soldiers can't fight without food, equipment and ammunition. In the Great War, the vast majority of this tonnage, supplying a vast army on many fronts, was supplied from Britain. Using horsed and motor vehicles, railways and waterways, they performed prodigious feats of logistics and were one of the great strengths of organisation by which the war was won.

**Ballyvaughan:** Samuel Johns. **Crusheen:** Patrick Fogarty.

**Ennis:** Major Wm Aylward O.B.E., Driver David Barrett, Driver Thomas Francis Molesworth Greene, Peter McNamara, Private Thomas O'Donnell, John O'Neill, Private Matthew Regan.

**Ennistymon:** Cyril Edwards, Private Bernard Farrelly, Thomas Heavy, Private Frank O’Grady.

**Kilfenora:** Peter Howard  **Kilkee:** Private Martin Meaney, Private Gerald Young.

**Killaloe:** Paul James Courtney, Private Thomas Malone, Michael McEvoy

**Kilmurry:** Michael Sheehan.  **Kilrush:** 2nd Lt William Joseph Clancy, John Foley, Pat King.

**Newmarket on Fergus:** Pte Sydney L.B. White.

**Sixmilebridge:** Private John Peter Breen.

**Spancill Hill:** Timothy Falvey.

**Co Clare:** Timothy Flanagan, Sergt W Hickey MSM, Peter Leyden.

**Willie Aylward OBE:** Church St Ennis Army Service Corps. **(CJ) Major Wm Aylward:** Ennis. Royal Army Service Corps. He was awarded the O.B.E. in 1917. **(SR) See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 180.** 2 brothers Joe and Con also fought in the war. They were the sons of Battery Sgt Major Joe Aylard.
Sergeant W Hickey: Clare. Army Service Corps. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for ‘valuable services rendered with the forces in France’ in June 1918. (SR) See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 164.

Sgt Major Michael Francis McNamara: 6ft 1in Market Street Ennis, died Jan 1918 age 38 in Mesopotamia, Royal Army Service Corps, G/M in Iraq. Formerly with the Army Service Corps where he was awarded the Medaille D’Honneur (Bronze) and Diploma in 1915. He had three brothers who also enlisted. (John and Peter)

Major Richard Studdert: Bunratty Castle. Army Service Corps (Formerly Royal Irish Regiment). He was mentioned in Despatches twice. He remained on in the army after the war dying in Egypt on active service in 1924. (Eamonn Dillon) Eric Shaw

Claremen in the Labour Battalion

The Labour Corps was raised in 1915 and disbanded in 1921. The Corps grew to some 389,900 men (more than 10% of the total size of the Army) by the Armistice. Of this total, around 175,000 were working in the United Kingdom and the rest in the theatres of war. The Corps was manned by officers and other ranks who had been medically rated below the "A1" condition needed for front line service. Many were returned wounded. Labour Corps units were often deployed for work within range of the enemy guns, sometimes for lengthy periods.

Ennis: Private Patrick Burke, Peter Coughlan, Patrick Daly, Private Michael Duffy, Thomas McNamara, Private Patrick Moroney, Private Michael Mullally, Private Patrick O'Grady, Michael O'Loughlin


Kilrush: John Cunningham, John O’Brien, Private Charles Sexton.

Miltown Malbay: Private Michael Corry, Michael White.

Chaplains from Clare

At the start of the war there were only 17 Catholic priests out of a total of 117 clergy in army service. An estimated 1,000 Catholic chaplains served in WW1 out of the 4,400 that were recruited. 179 of the total number lost their lives on active service. **There were 12 chaplains from Clare at the front.** Rev Egan died in Alexandria and Rev O’Meehan was accidentally shot in Mesopotamia.

**The Irish Bishops had rightly foreseen that a Catholic chaplain’s place was alongside his men on the front line. No Catholic soldier wanted to die without the last sacraments.** Thus many of the soldiers had great respect for the Catholic Chaplains.

Even the protestants in the Ulster Brigade said of the legendary **Fr Willie Doyle** (he was killed in the Battle of Ypres in August 1917 and awarded a Military Cross) that “Fr Doyle was a great deal among us. We could not possibly agree with his religious opinions but we simply worshipped him for other things. He did not know the meaning of fear and he did not know what bigotry was. He was ready to risk his life to take a drop of water to a wounded Ulsterman.”


**Fr Francis Clune MC MID**: Born in Ruan (Brother of Rev Patrick Joseph Clune who he met at the Somme in 1916) and lived in Marrickville New South Wales Australia. He became a Chaplain to the Australian Forces in 1915. ‘On 20th September at Bellewaarde Ridge N.E. of Hooge Chaplain Captain Francis Clune was at the dressing post. The post was being heavily shelled and a number of wounded were accumulating. Under heavy fire Captain Clune regardless of personal risk stood by the wounded, giving a hand with the dressing and ministering to their needs in a manner which inspired confidence in all during this trying time. This work was performed in the open, after the Cupola Dressing Post had been destroyed and despite the heavy shelling, which continued for over an hour. Father Clune has always shown magnificent devotion in action and under fire and notably so near Bullecourt in May 1917.’ *(Australian Chaplains in WW1)* He was Mentioned in Despatches in Jan 1917 and was awarded the Military Cross in Jan 1918 for ‘conspicuous bravery.’ He was aged 48.
Rev. Patrick Joseph Clune MID: Ruan. Chaplain General of the Australian Forces. He served on the Western Front and in Egypt. He was Mentioned in Despatches in Jan 1917. He was in Gallipoli, Egypt and France. He was badly wounded and temporarily lost his sight. (Brother of Francis)

Rev Father Benedict Coffey OFM: Ennis Chaplain. He was attached to the Royal Navy in the Adriatic in April 1916.

Rev Pierce Egan: Died of dysentery Alexandria April 1916.


Fr Michael Galvin: Kilnamona, served in Mesopotamia.

Rev John A (Jack) Halpin: (1884-1951) Chaplain, Newmarket on Fergus. Australian Infantry (AI) He was wounded in June 1917 in The Battle of Messines. He had been gassed and had Shell Shock. He returned again with the 5th Div. that fought to hold the Somme Bridges in March 1918.

Rev Michael McCormack: Tulla. Went to France with the US troops in Sept 1917. He had emigrated to the US in 1911 and was based in San Diego.

Fr Michael McKenna MID: Tulla. Chaplain. Mentioned in Despatches. Served in France. He relinquished his commision in Dec 1917. In 1921, he and Fr Gaynor were arrested by the Black and Tans for having IRA sympathies. It was held locally that they owed their escape from ‘auxiliary laws’ to a Great War veteran who recognised Fr Gaynor from the trenches. Fr McKenna died in Feb 1960. (DMC)

Fr Michael McMahon MC: Ennis, Curate. He was Chaplain to the Royal Army Medical Corps in France, where he was wounded in action and received the Military Cross. (DMC)

Fr Michael McMahon MC: Ennis, Curate. He was Chaplain to the Royal Army Medical Corps in France, where he was wounded in action and received the Military Cross. (DMC)

Fr Michael Moran MC: Tullassa, Inch. Royal Army Medical Corps. He was one of 12 Clare Chaplains to serve in WW1. (PMcN) He was Mentioned in Despatches at the Battle of Cambrai, where ‘he was instrumental in saving several men who were lying out wounded, and who would have bled to death if not for his timely attention’. Following that near Rheims even though
he was wounded in four places ‘he refused to go to hospital, and stayed with his men until the battle came to a successful finish four days later’. For his bravery and endurance he was awarded the Military Cross. Fr Michael Moran: Tullassa, Inch. Was notable for sending 3 letters from the Front. He was one of 12 Clare Chaplains to serve in WW1. Uncle of Danny Moran Ennis.

The Rev Isidore James O’Meehan: Ennis, died Dec 1919 age 52 in Mesopotamia, Army Chaplains Dept.


Rev William Aloysius Ryan: Chaplain. Killaloe. Australian Imperial Force. (AI) MA He was a clergyman aged 36 when he enlisted in Jan 1917 into the Chaplains Department. His mother was Mrs Mary Ryan Grange, Killaloe. He was discharged in Oct 1917. (UNSW)

Fr Francis Shaw: 1881-1924. Ennis. A War Chaplain with strong Republican views. He lost both parents when he was a boy. His guardian was Fr Michael Fogarty, who later became the Bishop of Killaloe. (The Jesuit publication 'Studies' Summer 2015) Fr. Francis Shaw, S.J. (1881-1924), served in the British Expeditionary Force in WWI and was stationed at No.17 Casualty Clearing Station, France; later posted to Bombay (c/o Archbishop’s House), and to Mesopotamia, where he suffered malaria and dysentery. Shaw was formerly an orphan in the guardianship of one Fr. Fogarty (afterwards bishop of Killaloe). He taught at Mungret College (Limerick) after the war.

In 1924 he died of cancer. He is credited with silencing British officers who disparaged the men of the Dublin Rising in 1916 [‘an icy frightened silence followed’]; He is buried in Mungret Cemetery (Eric Shaw)


Rev J.H. Thomas: Served with the 77th Battalion of the Canadian Army.
Claremen who died at Etreux in August 1914

‘By 5 p.m., the battalion was in danger of being overrun and began to retire south toward Étreux in order to rejoin the main force of British troops which had been retreating for most of the day. Yet as they approached Étreux, the Munsters discovered that much of the town had already been occupied by German troops who now began to lay down heavy machine-gun and artillery fire. Cut off from its own army and greatly outnumbered by the enemy, the rearguard now began to suffer serious casualties as it tried to fight its way through the German lines. British troops charged again and again at the houses in the northern outskirts of the village, which were full of German soldiers, but were beaten back by intense enemy fire.

By 7 p.m. the rearguard was under attack from all sides, the commanding officer had been killed, and the surviving officers and men had retired to an apple orchard from where they continued to resist the advancing German forces. Shortly after 9.15 p.m. those who were still standing, about 250 men, finally surrendered. By the time they laid down their arms, the Munsters had been fighting for over 12 hours against a German force that outnumbered them by about six to one.’

John Cunneen: Newmaket on Fergus, died Aug 1914 age 26 in Etreux, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in France.

Exhibits: Letter from the Records Office, box for British War and Victory Medals, box for 1914 star, registered envelope, 1914 Star, British War Medal, Victory Medal, Memorial Plaque, letter from King George V.

There were at least 180 Claremen who served with the 2nd RMF. 5 Claremen died at Etreux.

Ennis: James Hanrahan, Christopher Spillane and James Williams. Ennistymon: John O’Connor. Newmaket on Fergus: John Cunneen.

50 Claremen were taken as POW’s after Etreux.

Just 3 companies of the 2nd. Battalion of The Munsters halted the advance of the German Army for fourteen hours in the area of Oisny & Etreux during the retreat from Mons, thus enabling the rest of the British Army to withdraw to a safe distance of twelve miles. They were outnumbered at odds of over 6 to 1, and when finally defeated, the survivors were congratulated on their supreme bravery by the German soldiers they had fought. 576 were taken prisoner.
The 19 Claremen who died in Rue Du Bois 1915

“The Last Absolution of the Munsters at Rue Du Bois, 1915” by Fortunino Matania. The picture represents an actual incident on May 9th 1915, and depicts the Chaplain, Father Gleeson giving General Absolution to 800 men the evening before the Battle of Aubers Ridge in France. It was commissioned by Jessie-Louise Rickard in memory of her husband Colonel Victor Rickard, who is the other figure on horseback and was killed the following day. Sgt-Major J.T.Leahy who was there described how “On a lonely dark road-side, lit up now and then by flashes from our own and German flares, arose to Heaven the voices of 800 men singing that glorious hymn, ‘Hail Queen of Heaven’. Every man had his rosary beads out, reciting the prayers in response to Fr Gleeson.” He then went down among the men, blessing and encouraging them. At dawn the next morning, in the short period of the attack, the Munsters lost nineteen officers and 374 men. That evening those who survived returned to the same place for prayer.


Michael Butler: Old Mill Street, Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd. Awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for helping a comrade under heavy shell and maxim and rifle fire at Rue Du Bois in May 1915. He died in April 1917.
The principal town around which the fighting in Flanders revolved was Ypres. This region was fought over from October 1914 until practically the end of the war in November 1918. Millions died.

109 Claremen died in Ypres and Flanders 1914-1918


Claremen who died in Gallipoli 1915

Gallipoli was one of the Allies great disasters in World War One. Gallipoli was the plan thought up by Winston Churchill to end the war early by creating a new war front that the Central Powers could not cope with. By the time the campaign ended, over 120,000 men had died: more than 80,000 Turkish soldiers and 44,000 British and French soldiers, including over 8,500 Australians and 2,721 from New Zealand. In the history of the Great War, the Gallipoli campaign made no large mark. The number of dead, although horrific, pales in comparison with the number that died in France and Belgium during the war.

Over 3,000 Irish men died in Gallipoli.

66 Claremen who died in Gallipoli 1915. More than 150 Claremen were wounded.

About a third of the dead were killed in action, others died of wounds, wounded were burned alive in bush fires, and some died of frostbite during the blizzard of November of 1915 and many died of dysentery.

Ballyvaughan: John Griffin.


Kilrush: Joseph Brennan, Pat Coleman, Thomas Deenihan, Poole Henry Hickman, Michael Keane, Patrick Kelly, Patrick Kiely, Michael Lynch, Jack Maloney, John McGrath, Martin McGrath, Michael Meade, John Moloney, John Regan.

Lisdoonvarna: Michael Roche.

Miltown Malbay: Martin Earls/Earles, William Foran.

Newmarket on Fergus: Patrick Lyons, John Arthur Harold Taylor.


Scariff: Michael Magee/McGee.


The Battle of the Somme started in July 1st 1916. It lasted until November 1916. For many people, the Battle of the Somme was the battle that symbolised the horrors of warfare in World War One; this one battle had a marked effect on overall casualty figures and seemed to epitomise the futility of trench warfare. By the end of the battle, the British Army had suffered 420,000 casualties including nearly 60,000 on the first day alone. The French lost 200,000 men and the Germans nearly 500,000.

Claremen who died at The Somme July – Nov 1916

The Battle of the Somme was a series of 13 battles in 3 phases that raged from July to November. Claremen fought in all 13 Battles.

- Claremen fought in 28 of the 51 British and Commonwealth Divisions, and one of the French Divisions that fought at the Somme.
- The Irish Regiments that Claremen fought in at the Somme were The Royal Munster Fusiliers, The Royal Irish Regiment, The Royal Irish Fusiliers, The Royal Irish Rifles, The Connaught Rangers, The Leinster Regiment, The Royal Dublin Fusiliers and The Irish Guards.
- At least 77 Claremen were killed in action or died from wounds at the Somme in 1916. Hundreds of Claremen fought in the Battle.
- Over 3,500 Irish soldiers died, with many more wounded.

Claremen fought in 29 of the 51 British and Commonwealth Divisions that fought between July and November 1916 at the Somme. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 11th, 16th, 18th, 19th, 24th, 25th, 29th, 30th, 32nd, 36th, 37th, 39th, 47th, 56th, 63rd, the Guards Division, the 2nd, 4th & 5th Australian Divisions, the 1st Canadian and the New Zealand Division.
The Battle of Albert, 1–13 July (28)

2 Battle of Bazentin Ridge, 14–17 July (14)
   Attacks on High Wood 20–25 July (5)

3 Battle of Fromelles, 19–20 July (2)

4 Battle of Delville Wood, 14 July – 15 September (10)

5 Battle of Pozieres Ridge, 23 July – 7 August (12)

6 Battle of Guillemont, 3–6 September (6)

7 Battle of Ginchy, 9 September (3)

8 Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September (23)

9 Battle of Morval, 25–28 September (11)

10 Battle of Thiepval Ridge, 26–28 September (6)

11 Battle of the Transloy Ridges, 1 October – 11 November (19)

12 Battle of the Ancre Heights, 1 October – 11 November (6)

13 Battle of the Ancre, 13–18 November (13)
Claremen who died at The Somme July – Nov 1916

77 Claremen who died on the Somme July to Nov 1916.


Doolin: John Woods.


Ennistymon: Patrick Blood, Michael O’Connor.


Killaloe: Patrick Bennett, Patrick Danaher, Gerald Lefroy, Albert Muir, James Ryan. Kilnamona: Patrick Barry


Miltown Malbay: Tom Hill, Michael Kildea, Martin Lynch, Martin Moroney.

Mullagh: Thomas McKnight.

Newmarket on Fergus: John Forde, William Hourigan, Charles Edward Walsh.

O’Callaghan’s Mills: Martin Leyden/Lyden. Scariff: Martin Mineter.


Co Clare: Thomas Breslin, Alfred Murray, Patrick John O’Dea.
Honours won by Claremen at the Somme

**The Military Medal (M.M.)** Level 3 Gallantry Award

The Military Medal was awarded to the non officer ranks of the British Army and Commonwealth Forces. It was an award for gallantry and devotion to duty when under fire in battle on land. On the reverse of the medal is inscribed “For Bravery in the Field”.

**Thomas Coonan**: Born in Ogonnelloe, died 7th May 1918 age 23, Guards Machine Gun Regiment 4th Bn 76, G/M in France. Killed in action. He won the Military Medal (Probably in the Battle of Flers–Courcelette, 15–22 September). (TB) He is the grand uncle of Myles Dungan the renowned historian and broadcaster.

**Corporal J A Hayes MM**: Royal Engineers. Former P.O. Clerk in Ennis awarded the Military Medal in August 1916 ‘For bravery displayed at the battle of the Somme’. He is from Hospital in Co Limerick. He enlisted in 1915. (CJ)

**Michael Higgins**: Born in Liscannor, lived in Seamount House, died 15th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Irish Guards 2nd Bn 7493, G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action possibly in the lead up to the Battle of Morval (25th-28th Sept). He won the Military Medal for Gallantry in the Field. (TB) (Guss O’Halloran)

**John Keane MM**: Born in Kilrush, lived on Burton St Kilrush, died 9th Sept 1916 age 20, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 4612, G/M on Thiepval Memorial in France. He won the Military Medal and Parchment Certificate. Killed in action. (TB)

**Thomas Muldoon**: Born in India, lived in Feakle, died 9th Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn 7857, G/M in Thiepval France. Killed in action. He won the Military Medal. (TB) Wounded in July 1916. Son of Thomas Muldoon. (CJ)

**Gunner James J Sullivan MM**: Clarecastle. Royal Field Artillery. He was awarded the Military Medal for ‘Devotion to duty and conspicuous gallantry’ on 19th July 1916. He rescued an observation party in a dugout that was being shelled. (CJ)

**Donat “Dunny” White MM**: Scariff. Royal Munster Fusiliers. Dunny first came to prominence as a splendid hurler and played no small part in securing the County Championship for his native parish in 1907. He enlisted in 1914. He had survived the slaughter of the Somme and shortly after was awarded the Military Medal for going out under heavy enemy fire, and rescuing a senior officer who was lying wounded in what was known as no-man’s-land. Shortly after this daring rescue, Dunny received a serious eye wound that partially blinded him, and he received an honourable discharge from the army and was sent home. He died on Dec 23 1967. (Michael O’Gorman)
Honours won by Claremen at the Somme

Mentioned in Despatches (MID)

“Mentioned in Despatches” is not an award of a medal, but as a commendation of an act of gallantry. It is when an individual is mentioned by name and commended for having carried out an noteworthy act of gallantry or service. A Despatch is an official report written by the senior commander of an army in the field. A bronze oak leaf was issued and could be worn on the ribbon of the British Victory Medal.

Michael Joseph Breen: Born in Cooraclare lived in Queensland Australia, died 14th Sept 1916 from wounds received at the Battle of Pozieres, age 41, Australian Infantry 25th Bn 312, G/M in England. Mentioned in Despatches. Breen was also recommended for the Military Medal. (TB)

A Parchment Certificate

A Parchment Certificate was awarded for bravery and devotion to duty in the 16th Irish Division. It was signed by the Commanding Officer, Major General William Hickie from Tipperary.

Major Dr Augustus J Hickey MC: Carlton Terrace Kilkee. (aged 28 in 1916) Doctor in Kilmihil. Enlisted in May 1915. Royal Army Medical Corps. (CJ) He was awarded the Military Cross for distinguished service at the Battle of Messines June 1917. He had previously been awarded honour Parchments for the Battles of Ginchy, the Somme and Ypres. Son of Dr P C Hickey. (SR)

He died in June 1935 aged 48 in England. ‘Draped with the Union Jack and bearing his military headdress and sword, the coffin containing the body of Major Augustus J Hickey, R.A.M.C. was borne into Efford Cemetery (Plymouth) on the 6th inst. On a gun-carriage with an escort of 200 men and six officers of the King’s Regiment. He was accorded a military funeral’. (Clare Champion 15th June 1935) He is also remembered on the family gravestone in Kilferagh Kilkee.

Thomas Devers: Kilrush one of 5 brothers, Royal Munster Fusiliers. Wounded in Oct 1916. He received a a parchment certificate from Maj General Hickie in which tribute is paid to his ‘gallant conduct and constant devotion to duty in the field during 1916’ He had been wounded 4 times and fought at the Somme. His name was entered in the records of the Irish Division.
Honours won by Claremen at the Somme

The Russian Cross of St George Second Class.

The Order of Saint George is the highest purely military decoration of the Russian Government. It is awarded to top and senior military officers for the conduct of military operations to protect the Fatherland in the case of attack by an external enemy which resulted in the complete defeat of the enemy, for the execution of combat and other operations in other states aimed at restoring international peace and security, for being a model of military science with feats that exemplify military prowess, and who were previously awarded state awards for distinction in combat.

Lance Corporal T McMahon: Ennis. Royal Munster Fusiliers Wounded in Sept 1916 at Ginchy where he was recommended for a Distinguished Conduct Medal. He had already been awarded the Military Service Medal and a Parchment Certificate ‘For courageous conduct while under fire during a charge on Ginchy.’ (CJ) In Oct 1916 he was also awarded The Russian Cross of St George Second Class. This is one of the highest Russian honours and equivalent to the Victoria Cross. (CJ)

The names of 39 Claremen are inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial in France.
Anglo-French forces began landing at the Greek port of Salonika on 5 October 1915. The troops were sent to provide military assistance to the Serbs who had recently been attacked by combined German, Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian armies. The intervention came too late to save Serbia. The campaign concluded with the surrender of Bulgaria on 30 September 1918.

Claremen who died in Salonika 1915-1918.

Patrick Barron: Lisdoonvarna, died Jan 1917 age 39, Royal Irish Regiment, G/M in Greece.

George Brady: Butter Market Ennis, died July 1917 in Salonika, Leinster Regiment, G/M in Greece.

James Costello: Mullagh, died Nov 1915 in Greek Macedonia, 7th Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in Greece.

James Fennell: Kilkee, died July 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 6th, G/M in Salonika Greek Macedonia, Greece.

Martin Hartigan: Ennis, died Sept 1916 in Salonika, Corps of Royal Engineers, G/M in France.

John Joseph Hoare: Clare Road Ennis, died Oct 1918 age 33 in Salonika, Royal Field Artillery, G/M in Greece.

Blake John Kelly (John Kelly): Kilkee, died Jan 1918 age 29 in Salonika, Manchester Regiment, G/M in Greece.

John McAuley: Ennis, died Oct 1916, Royal Munster Fusiliers 6th in Greek Macedonia, G/M in Greece.

Thomas O’Halloran: Moyasta, died Nov 1915 in Salonika, Connaught Rangers, G/M in Greece.

Michael O’Leary: Ennis, died July 1916 in Salonika, Connaught Rangers, G/M in Greece.

Michael Purtell/Purtill: Moore St Kilrush, killed in action 10th Sept 1916 age 34 in Greek Macedonia, 6th Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in Greece.
There were many epic struggles fought along the banks of the River Tigris; from the seemingly unstoppable advance of the British throughout 1915 to the resurgence of their Turk opposition in 1916 culminating in the British humiliation at Kut-al-Amara in April 1916. British fortunes revived however with the appointment of Sir Frederick Stanley Maude as regional Commander-in-Chief, as success after success finally led to complete British victory in the region in October 1918.

Claremen who died in Mesopotamia 1915-18

**John Breen**: Kilrush, died April 1917 in Mesopotamia, Connaught Rangers, G/M in Egypt.

**Joe Duggan**: Feakle, died April 1916 in Mesopotamia, Cheshire Regiment, G/M in Iraq.

**Michael Halloran**: Ennis, died in Aug 1917 in Mesopotamia, Connaught Rangers, G/M in Iraq.

**William Gerard Keogh**: Killaloe, died Oct 1918 in Mesopotamia, Leinster Regiment, G/M in Sudan.

**Michael Maher**: Killaloe, died Aug 1917 in Mesopotamia, Connaught Rangers, G/M in Iraq.

**George Wyndham Maunsell**: Clarecastle, died Feb 1917 age 28, Engineer with the Indian Army Reserve of Officers, G/M in Iraq.

**Michael McEvoy**: Killaloe, died July 1916 age 18 in Mesopotamia, Army Service Corps, G/M in Iraq.

**Michael Francis McNamara**: Market Street Ennis, died Jan 1918 age 38 in Mesopotamia, Royal Army Service Corps, G/M in Iraq. Formerly with the RMF where he was awarded the Medaille D'Honneur.

**Simon Moloney**: Kilrush, died Aug 1916 in Mesopotamia, Royal Garrison Artillery, G/M in Iraq.

**The Rev Isidore James O’Meehan**: Ennis, died Dec 1919 age 52 in Mesopotamia, G/M in Iraq.
10 Claremen and Women who died on the **RMS Leinster**

Shortly before 9.00 am on 10 October 1918 the **RMS Leinster** left Carlisle Pier, Kingstown, bound for Holyhead carrying 697 passengers, 76 crew and 22 postal sorters from Dublin Post Office.

**Margaret Cooke:** Born in Tipperary, had worked in Newhall, Ballyea until 1915. She died after the sinking of the RMS Leinster on the 10th October 1918.

**Private John Coyne:** Born in Galway, lived in Tuamgraney, died 10th Oct 1918 age 40 on the **RMS Leinster**, Labour Corps, G/M in England. (TB)

**Delia Davoren:** Claureen House Ennis, died Oct 1918 age 37 on the **RMS Leinster**, a nurse in Northamptonshire, G/M in Drumcliffe.

**Nora Davoren:** sister Delia above, died also on the **RMS Leinster** and also nursed in Northamptonshire, G/M in Drumcliffe.

**Edwin George Ferber:** Born in Killaloe. He was a Superintendent Engineer employed by the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company. He was onboard, but was not considered to be on duty, when the RMS Leinster was sunk, on the 10th Oct 1918. Aged 63.

**Nellie (Noreen) Hogan:** Originally from Ralahine, Newmarket on Fergus. She was a nurse and died on board the **RMS Leinster**. Her body was lost at sea.

**James and Clare Hynes:** Tulla, died Oct 1918 on the **SS RMS Leinster**, civilians. (TB) James Hynes was a Tailor, and had been born in Tulla, Co. Clare. (Body lost at sea) Clare Hynes: Tulla. Daughter of James above. Died Oct 1918 on the **SS RMS Leinster**, civilian. (TB) (Body lost at sea)

**Margaret O Grady:** Quin, died Oct 1918 on the **SS RMS Leinster**, G/M in Quin Abbey. (TB) Her body was found.

**Mary (May) O Grady:** Quin, died Oct 1918 on the **SS RMS Leinster**, G/M in Quin. Her body was not found. Mary was a nurse, working in England, and was returning to work after a holiday at home.

**Owen Ward:** Born in Monaghan. Head Constable in the RIC 59102, in charge of Ennis, died on the **RMS Leinster** 10th Oct 1918. Body lost at sea. He is believed to have been travelling to Birmingham on official business.
On May 7, 1915, the RMS Lusitania, which primarily ferried people and goods across the Atlantic Ocean between the United States and Great Britain, was torpedoed by a German U-boat and sunk, off the Old Head of Kinsale. Of the 1,959 people on board, 1,198 died, including 128 Americans. The sinking of the Lusitania enraged Americans and hastened the United States entrance into World War I.

Michael Galvin: Kilmurry-McMahon, died May 1915 age 20 on the SS Lusitania, civilian.

Dr Joseph Garry (1890-1915): Shanabea Kildysart, died May 1915 age 35 on the RMS Lusitania, Assistant Surgeon Mercantile Marine Unit, G/M in England.

Edmond (Eddie) Ireton: Lassana, Clooney, Quin. Born in 1879. He emigrated to the USA in Feb 1914. In April 1915 he decided to return to Ireland and sailed on the ill-fated Lusitania. He died May 7th 1915 age 36, when the liner was sunk off the south coast of Ireland, by a torpedo from the German U-Boat U-20.

Patrick Sheedy: Darragh, Ennis. He died May 7th 1915 age 30, when the Lusitania was sunk off the south coast of Ireland, by a torpedo from the German U-Boat U-20. Of the 1,959 people on board, 1,198 died, including 128 Americans. The sinking of the Lusitania enraged the Americans. (Clare Champion)

Jane Hogan: Mullagh. Lived in US for 20 years. A survivor of the Lusitania. She was in the water for 5 hours with six friends who all died. All her money was stitched into her corset.
Claremen who were Prisoners of War

The local prisoner’s organisation listed 91 Clare POW’s in WW1. Most of these had been in Limburg Jail, where some 2,500 Irish POW’s were detained.

**Clarecastle:** Thomas Kelly: died Sept 1916 on the Somme, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in France. Was taken prisoner in Etreux in August 1914 with 500 others and taken to Germany. Lt Francis James Slattery MID

**Ennis:** Sgt Major J Browne, Patrick Burke, John Ensko, Corporal Kelly, Corporal Jeremiah Lyons, Captain Molony, James (Sonny) Moroney (Joseph Kennedy), Private Patrick O’Loghlin, Private T Timmins, W Warde.

**Killaloe:** Arthur Flynn: Royal Munster Fusiliers. A POW in June 1918.

**Frederick Perry:** Castleview Cottage (Fomerla House) Tulla. He was taken prisoner by the Turks and he was held in Bor Nigde until he was released.

He wrote a letter to his mother in Sept 1918. ‘My dearest mother, I hope you and all at home are quite well and enjoying life. I have not had a letter from you for over a month. I very often think of you all at home these days, as I have plenty of time for reflection and my mind takes me back to times when I was very small...I wish you all a very happy Xmas...Although I am miles away from the children, yet they are ever with me in my thoughts, and are as it were, a part of my life and soul...with love to all, keep smiling and write. Au revoir. Your affectionate son, Fred’.

He came home from the camps in very poor health (4 stone in weight) and shortly afterwards, died tragically in London, on the 28 Nov 1919. He is buried in Ballysheen, Sixmilebridge. (Eric Shaw)
Claremen who were Prisoners of War


Kilkee: Michael O’Meara.

Tulla: Frederick Perry taken prisoner by the Turks and he held in Bor Nigde until he was released.

**Claremen and Women with Shell Shock**

**John Montague ‘Monty’ Kelly:** Ruan, Leinster Regiment. Suffered from shell shock. This British War Medal was awarded to him, a veteran of the First World War, who was born in Port House, Ruan in 1893.

**Bunratty:**
Lieut. James Roche-Kelly: Firgrove, Bunratty. South Irish Horse. 1914 (CJ) Mentioned in Despatches ‘For gallant and distinguished service in the field’ Feb 1915 (CJ) During the 1950s a Roche Kelly man lived as a hermit in a hut in Cappanty, Meelick. He was a shell shocked ex officer. He walked in Limerick each day wearing a trench coat. I often saw him. (Matthew Mac Namara)

**Carron:**
Patrick J O’Brien: Poulcarron, Co Clare. Westminster Rifles Officer Training Corps (OTC). He was awarded the Silver War Badge for services rendered in the strenuous fighting at Louis Wood in Sept 1916 where he also suffered shell shock.

**Cooraclare:**
William Brock: Cooraclare. New Zealand Army. Enlisted in Oct 1917, and served in Western Europe until 1919. He suffered from ‘shell shock’ and was taken back to Cooraclare. He died in Ennis in 1935.

**Clarecastle/Ballyea:**

**Ennis:**
P Brigdale: Ennis. Private M Moroney: Ennis. Sergeant Edward Reynolds: Cloughleigh Road Ennis Co Clare. He was discharged in Jan 1919 with shell shock. He was admitted to a Hospital in Warley in 1928 and died there in Jan 1947.

**Ennistymon:** Sgt Kelleher:

**Kilrush:** Private Thomas Breen: Ennis Road, Kilrush, Gunner Thomas Conway: Pound St / Hector St Kilrush. Gunner Thomas Conway: Pound St / Hector St Kilrush. Private John O’Brien: Pound St/Hector St Kilrush.

**Miltown Malbay:** M Loftus. **Sixmilebridge:** Reidy.
The 3 Aylward Brothers from Ennis who all survived WW1

Cornelius Aylward: He enlisted in Aug 1914 into the 7th Royal Munster Fusiliers 151. He served with the Med. Ex. Force 1915/16. Lt Joe Aylward: Church St Ennis. Royal Field Artillery. Major Willie Aylward OBE: Church St Ennis Army Service Corps. He was awarded the O.B.E. in 1917. (SR)

The 4 Armstrong Brothers from Kilrush. One died in France. 3 survived WW1.


The 2 Brady-Browne Brothers from Tulla, who survived and their sister who died during WW1

Nurse Eileen (Mary) Brady-Browne: Born in 1893. She lived in Newgrove House, Tulla. She was a nurse during the War. She died on the 24th July 1917 from a kidney infection, and is buried in Tulla Church of Ireland Graveyard. Captain Thomas Henry Brady-Browne: (1882-1937) Newgrove, Tulla. Following the outbreak of hostilities with Germany, Thomas enlisted in the army as a temporary Captain, and served in France throughout the war, eventually resigning his commission in June 1919. Windham Alexander Brady-Browne: (born 1887) Newgrove, Tulla. He was born at Newgrove on 31 May 1887. After the outbreak of the First World War, Windham volunteered for military service and was attested into the Canadian Army on 16 June 1915.

The 2 Buffham Brothers from Kilrush who survived WW1

Bombardier Frank Buffham: He was a Shoemaker aged 18 when he enlisted in Oct 1908 into the Royal Garrison Artillery 29568. He was discharged in Jan 1917 due to a gun shot wound (Jan 1916) that led to his right leg being amputated below the knee. His mother was Annie Buffham Burton St, Kilrush. George Buffham: Born in Kilrush 1st Nov 1885. Royal Navy 214081 from Feb 1901– Jan 1920.

The 2 Considine Brothers from Cooraclare one who died just after the war.

Tom Considine: Danganelly, Cooraclare. Australian Infantry. Private William Considine: Danganelly, Cooraclare (Served as Thomas O’Connor AI), died at sea 1st May 1919 age 29, Australian Infantry, G/M in South Africa. He survived the War but died on a troop ship, when he participated in an on deck tug-of-war.
# Clare Brothers in Arms

## The 3 Considine Brothers from Corofin who survived WW1

**2nd Lt John J Considine:** Born 25th Oct 1895 in Corofin Co Clare. He was aged 22 and living in Yonkers New York, when he enlisted on the 13th June 1918 into Inf Repl Camp, Camp Lee, Va and later to Camp Upton NY with the 42nd Infantry. **Sergeant Stephen Considine:** Corofin. He was a Book Keeper aged 37 when he enlisted in Sept 1914 into the Royal Garrison Artillery 2672. Another brother was an officer in the US Navy.

## The 2 Conway Brothers from Ennis. 1 died at Loos the other at Loos.

**Martin Conway:** Born in Old Mill St Ennis. Killed in action 30th Sept 1915 age 28, in the Battle of Loos. Irish Guards 2nd Bn 541, G/M in Loos Memorial France. **Patrick Conway:** Old Mill St Ennis, died of wounds 20th July 1916 in Loos, Royal Munster Fusiliers 8th Bn, G/M in France.

## The 2 Corry Brothers from Miltown Malbay. 1 died at Passchendaele the other at Cambrai.

**Joseph Corry:** Miltown Malbay, died Oct 1917 age 19, Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Son of Bridget Corry of Breaffa, Miltown Malbay. **Thomas Corry:** Miltown Malbay, died Sept 1918 age 22, Canadian Infantry. He enlisted in 1916 when he was living in New York.

## The 4 Cummins Brothers from Ennis who survived WW1.

**Mechanic First Grade David Blackwell Cummins:** Ennis. **Lt Cummins:** Ennis. Royal Navy. One other brother was in the Connaught Rangers, and another in Lord Derby’s Army.

## The 2 Cunneen Brothers from Newmarket on Fergus. One died at Etreux, the other was disabled.

**John Cunneen:** Newmarket on Fergus, killed in action Aug 1914 age 26 in Etreux, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. **Private Thomas Cunneen.** Newmarket on Fergus. 2nd Royal Munster Fusiliers 4097. He survived the War, although shrapnel in his brain caused him severe problems in later years.

## The 2 Cunningham Brothers from the Turnpike Ennis. 1 at Rue du Bois and Ypres.

**John Cunningham:** Turnpike Ennis, died May 1915 age 25 in Rue du Bois, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in France. **William Cunningham:** Kilrush, died Oct 1914 age 29, Leinster Regiment, G/M in Belgium.

## The 5 Devers brothers from Kilrush who survived WW1

There were 5 Devers brothers from a family of 10 who served in the Great War. Their parents were Stephen Devers who was a shoemaker and his wife Lizzie of Burton Street. The eldest is **Able Seaman William** (35) of the Royal Navy, **Thomas** in the Royal Munster Fusiliers, **John** (31) in the Royal Garrison Artillery, **Michael** (26) in the Royal Munster Fusiliers, **Able Seaman Stephen** (24) in the Royal Navy.
Clare Brothers in Arms

**The 2 Donnelly brothers from Kilkee. One died in Gallipoli.**

**John Donnelly:** Lisdeen, Kilkee. Co Clare, died of wounds received in Suvla Bay Gallipoli 19th Oct 1915 age 39, Royal Munster Fusiliers 6th, G/M in England. Son of James and Susan Donnelly, Lisdeen. **Gunner Michael Donnelly:** Lisdeen Kilkee. He was a Labourer aged 18 when he enlisted in Feb 1899 into the Royal Garrison Artillery 33839. His father was James, and brothers Patrick, John and William, Lisdeen Kilkee. He married Maud Place in March 1911 and they had a daughter Kathleen Winifred.

**The 2 Fogerty Brothers from Ennis. One died in Ypres. The other just after in Egypt.**

**Lt John Frederick Cullinan Fogerty:** No 1 Bank Place (Next door to the Bank of Ireland), Ennis, killed in action 25th Sept 1917 age 21 in Ypres, Royal Engineers, G/M in Belgium. **Lieutenant William Perrott Fogerty:** Born in Limerick, lived at 1 Bank Place Ennis, died 19th Oct 1919 age 20 in Alexandria, 57th Wilde’s Rifles (Frontier Force), G/M in Egypt.

**The 6 Frawley Brothers from the Turnpike, Ennis. 1 died in Gallipoli, 1 in Ypres and 4 survived WW1.**

Patrick Frawley, Turnpike Ennis, died April 1915 at Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st. One of six brothers who served, two of whom were killed. Peter Frawley: Turnpike Ennis, died Oct 1914 age 27, Leinster Regiment, G/M in France.

**The 2 Gillespie brothers from Clonlara who both survived.**

**Captain Frank Sheppard Gillespie:** Royal Army Medical Corps. He was the son of Rev Chancellor Gillespie D.D., Rector of Kiltenanlea, Diocese of Killaloe.

**2nd Lt. Ivor Ronald Gillespie.**

**The 2 Gillack (Gillic) brothers from Kilrush who survived.**

**Chris Gillack (Gillic):** Kilrush. Royal Army Medical Corps Navy. 37 Vandeleur Street. He enlisted in the Navy. His parents were Thomas and Honora Gillic. **Jer Gillack (Gillic):** Kilrush. Royal Army Medical Corps Navy.

**The 2 Gissane brothers from Killaloe. One died in France.**

**James Gissane:** Born in Killaloe, died 5th July 1918 age 40, Royal Engineers Base Signal Depot. Son of Michael and Annie Gissane, New Street, Killaloe. **Driver Michael Joseph Gissane:** He served with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force from September 1915.
The Henn brothers from Kildysart who both survived.
William Francis Henn: Paradise Kildysart. He was commissioned during the 1914-1918 war into the Royal Munster Fusiliers and served at Gallipoli (wounded and Mentioned-in-Despatches) and Palestine. His wife Geraldine was the daughter of Thomas George Stacpoole-Mahon of Corbally, Co. Clare. T R Henn: Paradise House, Kildysart.

The Hickey family from Kilkee in WW1 who all survived.

The 3 Hickman brothers from Knock one of whom was killed in Gallipoli.

Captain Poole Henry Hickman: Kilmore, Knock, Kilrush, died Aug 15th 1915 age 35 in Gallipoli, 7th Bn Royal Dublin Fusiliers.


The 2 Keane brothers from Kilrush. 1 died at the Somme, the other was courtmartialled.
John Keane MM: Burton St Kilrush, died Sept 1916 age 20, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st, G/M on Thiepval Memorial in France. He was awarded the Military Medal and Parchment Certificate for bravery. Deceased is the son of Mr and Mrs Pat Keane Burton Street. Michael Keane: Burton Street Kilrush. He was sentenced to continuous action at the front for 6 months for giving his rifle (at the behest of Countess Markievicz) to the Irish Volunteers in Ennis. He opted to be courtmartialed at the Front by Captain RG Keane. He survived the War.
The 5 Keane brothers from Kilrush. 1 died at Gallipoli, 1 was courtmartialed.

Michael Keane: The Glen Kilrush, died April 1915 in Gallipoli, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st, G/M on Helles Memorial in Turkey. His four brothers also enlisted. Son of Patrick and Mary Keane. Brother of Pat and Thomas. ‘In reference to his Majesty’s congratulations to Mr Wm Slade, commercial porter at Reading, for having six sons in his Majesty’s Forces, we call attention to the fact that Mr Pat Keane, Kilrush, Co Clare, has five gallant sons in his Majesty’s Forces.’ Patrick Keane: The Glen, Kilrush. He was sentenced to continuous action at the front for giving his rifle (at the behest of Countess Markievicz) to the Irish Volunteers in Ennis. He opted to be courtmartialed at the Front by Captain RG Keane. However his sentence was suspended after he rescued an officer in no man’s land and he survived the War. Thomas Keane DSM: The Glen Kilrush, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st Bn, Gallipoli.

The 2 Keogh brothers from Killaloe. 1 died in France, the other died in Mesopotamia.


The 2 Killeen brothers from Doonbeg. 1 died from wounds at home.

Mick Killeen: Doonbeg, US Army. Before the war he was a boxer and had boxed Gene Tunney in a test fight. He wrote a letter in August 1919 to his sister Mary where he described how he attended his brother Timothy’s funeral. His parents were Thomas and Elizabeth Killeen. Timothy Killeen: Doonbeg, died July 1919. 2nd Bn Irish Guards 10511 (Guards Division), G/M in Doonbeg Catholic Churchyard. Brother of George and Mick Killeen. He was hospitalized from 24th April 1917 – 2nd Feb 1918 with gunshot wounds to the head, chest and arms.

The 3 Lahiffe brothers from Islandavanna, Tiermaclane. 1 died at Rue du Bois.


The 2 Larkin brothers from Parteen. They both survived.

Corporal John ‘Jack’ Larkin: born 1890 in Shanakyle (Parteen) Co Clare. US Army. Older brother of Jim. He emigrated to the USA and lived in the New York area. He served with the 42nd Infantry known as the ‘Rainbow Division’. They were deployed to France in October 1917. Jack was wounded in the conflict. He returned to New York after the war.

Clare Brothers in Arms


The 5 Lynch brothers from Doora, one of whom died in France, and one after the war at home. There were five Lynch brothers (James, John, Michael and Patrick, Thomas) from Deerpark, Doora who all joined the Ordnance Survey Office in Ennis in the 1890s and who, when qualified, joined the Royal Engineers. Sons of John and Bridget (nee Hickey) Lynch. James Lynch: During the Great War, he was sent to France to map trenches etc. Unfortunately his health broke down and he died in the Mental Hospital in Ennis in 1920, as a result of the hardships he endured in the war. John (Jack) Lynch: In 1910 Major John Lynch was loaned to the Australin Government to inaugurate the Military Survey of Australia. He subsequently commanded the Survey Corps in Victoria and retired in May 1934. He died in Melbourne in 1939. Michael Lynch: He served in Ceylon, Singapore, Sierra Leone and the British Expeditionary Force from 1915-19. Michael Lynch died 18 June 1927 and is in the same grave in Quin Abbey as James. Patrick Bennett Lynch: He enlisted in Sept 1894 age 20 into the Royal Engineers 28423. He was discharged in August 1916. He was commended by the Governor General of Canada in 1908 for his topographical survey of Canada. Thomas Joseph/John Lynch: Born in Deerpark Doora, lived in Falmouth, died of wounds 16th May 1915 age 32, during The Battle of Festubert (15-25 May 1915), Royal Engineers 11th Field Company 13419, 2nd Div, G/M in France.

The 2 McInerney brothers from Meelick. 1 died in Pozieres, the other in Flanders. Michael McInerney: Meelick, died March 1918 age 22 in Pozieres, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in France. Son of Timothy and Annie McInerney of Derramore, Meelick. Patrick McInerney: died April 1916 age 21, Irish Guards, G/M in Belgium.

The 2 McKnight brothers from Kilrush. 1 died in France. Stephen McKnight MM: Kilrush, died March 1918, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in France. He was awarded the Military Medal (and 2 parchment Certificates) in Sept 1917 in Passchendaele. Son of Patrick and Ellen McKnight, Hector Street. James McKnight: Kilrush. US Army. Lived in New York.

The 2 MacMaster brothers from Clarecastle who both survived the war. Their mother was Ellen Hassett. Francis Benedict MacMaster: Born 21/12/1892 in Clarecastle. He lived in Winnipeg. He was a Student when he enlisted with the Canadian Expeditionary Force 475274 in 1915. His next of kin was his sister Mary Josephine Barry, Clarecastle. Joseph Hassell MacMaster: Australian Imperial Force. Born in Clarecastle lived in Brisbane. Australian Light Horse Regiment. Discharged 18 July 1919. Cause of death 15/5/1924 Acute Alcoholism, Gastritis, Acetonaemia, Heart Failure at Dunelin Private Hospital.
Clare Brothers in Arms

The 2 McMahon Brothers from Kilmaley. 1 died in France, the other in Gallipoli.

The 3 McNamara brothers from Ennis. 1 died in Mesopotamia.
John McNamara: Market Street Ennis. 6ft 3in Irish Guards. Michael Francis McNamara: 6ft 1in Market Street Ennis, died Jan 1918 age 38 in Mesopotamia, Royal Army Service Corps, G/M in Iraq. Formerly with the Army Service Corps where he was awarded the Medaille D’Honneur (Bronze) and Diploma in 1915. Peter McNamara: Market St Ennis. Army Service Corps.

The 5 Moloney Brothers from Newmarket on Fergus who all survived WW1

I Moloney, Patrick Moloney, Matthew Moloney, Thomas Moloney & Ed Moloney

The 3 Morgan brothers from Ennis who all survived.


The 3 Murphy brothers from Inch. 1 died in France.
Jack Murphy: Inch. He lost one hand in the war. After the war he was a postman in Ennistymon. P. J. Murphy: Mahonburg, Inch, died 13th Oct 1918, Canadian Army. Mick Murphy: Inch. He was wounded in the war. After the war he lived in Woodquay, Ennis.

The 4 Murrihy brothers from Ennistymon who all survived.
The 4 Hon O’Brien brothers and 1 sister from Dromoland. 1 died in the first air attack launched on German naval bases.


The 2 O’Halloran brothers from The Turnpike Ennis. 1 died near Ypres.

John Joseph O’Halloran: The Turnpike Ennis. 8th Kings Royal Irish Hussars’.

Sgt. William O’Halloran: The Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st. He was killed 4th Nov.1916. He fought in Gallipoli and then in France with the 16th Irish Division at Guillemont and Ginchy. He died in an area south of Ypres.

The 2 O’Loughlin brothers from Miltown Malbay. 1 died at Rue du Bois.

Martin O’Loughlin: Miltown Malbay. 2nd Bn Royal Munster Fusiliers. He played for the famous ‘St Josephs’ football team. Thomas O’Loughlin: Born and lived on the Ennistymon Road, Miltown Malbay, killed in action 9th May 1915 age 29 in the Rue Du Bois in the Battle of Aubers Ridge. Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn, G/M in France. His brother Martin also belonged to the same company. Son of Martin and Katie O’Loughlin. A former GAA player with the St Joseph’s football team.

The 2 O’Shea brothers from Miltown Malbay. 1 died near Ypres. 1 was awarded a DCM.

Sergeant John Joseph O’Shea DCM: Miltown Malbay. 1st Bn. Royal Munster Fusiliers. He was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (25/8/1917 RMF Book) age 24. ‘For gallant conduct and constant devotion to duty’. Patrick O’Shea: Born in Miltown Malbay, lived in Lancashire, killed in action 29th April 1916, at Vlamertinghe near Ypres. Irish Guards 2nd Bn 7430, 2nd (Guards) Brigade of the Guards Division.G/M in Belgium. His father was the Head Constable in Miltown Malbay.
Clare Brothers in Arms

The 2 O’Shea Brothers from Ruan. 1 died in France.

Michael J O’Shea/Shea: Ruan. On the records he died Aug 1918. The 69th Infantry US Army, G/M in France. According to the family he survived the war. Thomas O’Shea/Shea: Ruan, killed in action on July 18th 1918, age 28, at Vierzy France. He was hit in the head by enemy shrapnel and died instantly. 9th Infantry US Army (2nd Div). On 24th May 1922 Thomas returned home to Ruan, Co. Clare and was buried in the local graveyard.

The 2 Perry brothers and 1 sister from Tulla. 1 brother died after the war. 1 awarded a DCM.

Charles Joseph Perry DCM: (1882-1955) Castleview Cottage (Fomerla House) Tulla. He served as a gunner with the Royal Field Artillery – reg no. L31269. He was awarded 5 medals including a Distinguished Conduct Medal DCM and he survived the War. Emily Rose Perry: Fomerla, Tulla, 1890-1979. She was in the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), a voluntary unit that provided field nursing units. Frederick Perry: Castleview Cottage (Fomerla House) Tulla. He was taken prisoner by the Turks and he was held in Bor Nigde until he was released. He came home from the camps in very poor health (4 stone in weight) and shortly afterwards, died tragically in London, on the 28 Nov 1919. He is buried in Ballysheen, Sixmilebridge.

The 2 Power brothers from Clarecastle. 1 died at the Somme. 1 suffered from Shell Shock.


The 2 Reynolds brothers from Corrovorrin Ennis. 1 died at Rue du Bois.

Stephen Reynolds: Corrovorrin. Born in Ennis on 31 Dec 1890. He was wounded there but survived. He was given a soldier’s house in Killoo and died there in 1946 aged 56. He was buried in Corrovorrin Cemetery. James Reynolds: Corrovorrin Ennis, died 9th May 1915 age 23 in Rue Du Bois in the Battle of Aubers Ridge, Royal Munster Fusiliers 2nd Bn (5514), G/M in France. He was the son of James and Margaret Reynolds.
Clare Brothers in Arms

The 2 Ringrose brothers from Meelick who survived the war.

The 2 Roche-Kelly brothers from Bunratty who both survived the war.
Major Edmund Roche-Kelly DSO MID was born 1881 in Firgrove House, Bunratty, County Clare. Royal Irish Regiment. By July 1917 he had been awarded the Croix de Guerre and the Legion d’Honneur by the French Government. He was also awarded the Distinguished Service Order. Finally, in May 1918, having also been twice mentioned in despatches, he took over command of a battalion of the Somerset Light Infantry. James Roche-Kelly MID: Firgrove, Bunratty. South Irish Horse. Mentioned in Despatches ‘For gallant and distinguished service in the field’ Feb 1915. During the 1950s a Roche Kelly man lived as a hermit in a hut in Cappanty, Meelick. He was a shell shocked ex officer. He walked in Limerick each day wearing a trench coat. I often saw him.(Matthew Mac Namara)

The 2 Sammon brothers from Scariff. 1 died with the US Army.
Pat Sammon: Meenross, Scariff. Patrick died of Broncho Pneumonia with US forces on on the 21st March 1918. He did not serve overseas. His passing is recorded on family gravestone in Moynoe Graveyard, Scariff. His father was Thomas Sammon, Scariff. He is buried in Arlington Cemetery. Jack Sammon: Meenross, Scariff. Jack was wounded, had a plate in his back and eventually moved to the Canaries where he saw out his life.

The 3 Scanlan brothers from Kilrush. 1 died during WW1. 1 died after the war.

The 2 Shaw brothers from Clarecastle. They both died in France.
Basil Claude Shaw: Born in Clarecastle, lived in Newport Wales, died 4th June 1918, Monmouthshire Regiment 1st Bn 226237, 46th (North Midland) Division as G/M in Pernes, France. Charles Shaw: Born in Clarecastle lived in Newport Wales, killed in action 13th March 1915 age 20, in The Battle of Neuve Chapelle (10–13 March 1915). Royal Welsh Fusiliers 1st Bn.
Clare Brothers in Arms

The 2 Sheedy brothers from Scariff who survived the war.

Michael Sheedy: Derygraney Scariff. Australian Army, 45th Battery of the 12th Field Artillery Brigade 23091. Michael was 34 years old and had been working as a labourer when he enlisted in Brisbane on January 5, 1916. 

John Sheedy: Derygraney Scariff. On the 16th Oct 1916 he was a labourer aged 32 when he enlisted in Queensland, in the 49th Bn Australian Army 7049. His mother was Norah Sheedy.

The 4 Slattery brothers from Ballyea who survived the war.


The 4 Taylor brothers from Newmarket on Fergus. 1 died in Gallipoli.


The 2 Tracey brothers from Bodyke. 1 died at the Somme.


Joseph Tracey: Clarecastle. He was aged 38 when he enlisted in 1915, into the Royal Engineers.

The 3 Thynne Brothers from Ennistymon. They all died in WW1.

John, Michael & Patrick Thynne from Church Hill Ennistymon. Patrick a member of the Irish Guards died in may 1915 in France; Michael (Royal Munster Fusiliers) died the same month in Turkey while John (Royal Irish Regiment) died in 1918. Their parents were John & Catherine Thynne. They had three sisters.
**Sisters in WW1**

**The 2 Davoren sisters from Ennis**

Delia and Nora Davoren: Claureen House Ennis, both died Oct 1918 age 37 on the RMS *Leinster*, both nurses in Northamptonshire, G/M in Drumcliffe.

**The 2 Meade sisters from Miltown Malbay.**

Nance Meade: Rhine, Miltown Malbay. She was a nurse that tended wounded soldiers in the new wing attached to the ‘King Edward VII Hospital in Cardiff. Nellie Meade: Rhine, Miltown Malbay. She was a nurse. She ‘has also been selected by the War Office, and has gone to Egypt for services with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force’.

**The 2 O’Grady sisters from Quin who both died on the RMS Leinster.**

Margaret O Grady: Quin, died Oct 1918 on the SS RMS *Leinster*, G/M in Quin Abbey. Her body was found. Born in 1889. Daughter of Francis O’Grady and Mary J. [née Kitson] O’Grady, of Tomfinlough, Co. Clare. Mary (May) O Grady: Quin, died Oct 1918 on the SS RMS *Leinster*, G/M in Quin. Her body was not found.

**Fathers and Sons in WW1**

**Maurice Michael Mulcahy:** Bindon St Ennis. father of Pat, was aboard the SS *Ocean* when it was torpedoed off the Dardenelles. He was a Sexton of St Columba’s Church. He survived the war. His son Patrick died in 1917 in France. (P McN)

**Patrick Mulcahy:** Bindon St Ennis, died Oct 1917 age 20, Royal Army Medical Corps, G/M in France. (TB) Son of Maurice Michael and Mary Isabella Mulcahy. His father also served in the War. (See Profiles of the Clare War Dead L-M)

**Martin Moloney:** Lived in Quilty, died 25th Jan 1917 age 40, Royal Navy Reserve Unit **HMS Laurentic** 5237B, G/M in England. He had been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. Son of Martin and Ellen Moloney (nee Brown). Husband of Bridget Moloney, Quilty West.(TB)Their son Michael Moloney died in April 1916. See below.

**Michael Moloney:** Born in Quilty, died 27th April 1916 age 18, Royal Iniskilling Fusiliers 7th Bn 26452, G/M in France. Formerly with the Royal Munster Fusiliers. Son of Martin and Bridget Moloney Quilty West. Killed in action. (TB) His father Martin died in Jan 1917. See above.
Thomas Davis: Turnpike Road, Ennis, executed in Gallipoli July 1915 age 21 for allegedly deserting his post, Royal Munster Fusiliers 1st, G/M in Turkey. [TB] [See Profiles of the Clare War Dead A-E]

‘On 2 July Pte. T. Davis of the 1RMF was executed, having been found guilty of ‘quitting his post’ while on duty without the orders of a superior officer on 20 June. As one of a number of men on guard duty at Battalion H.Q., his task had been to patrol the perimeter as a ‘flying sentry’ for a two hour patrol starting at 1am. A sergeant discovered him missing an hour and a half later and reported him to the guard room. Pte. Davis turned up three hours later and was charged. At his trial on the 22nd he said he had needed to find a latrine but was disbelieved in the light of a bad previous military record which included a ten year suspended sentence to penal servitude. Five men of the 1RMF had previously had death sentences on a charge of ‘behaving in such a manner as to show cowardice before the enemy’ on 9 May, commuted in the light of the gallant performance of the rest of their Battalion….

‘The Battalion is in an awful state. It is about 450 short but full of soldiers with about 2 months service.’ .. The decision to carry through the execution on 2 July of Private T. Davis in contrast to previous sentences which had been commuted, may have been influenced by the unhappy state of the Battalion described by Nightingale.’ (The Story of the RMF 1914-1918 by Martin Staunton) In the book by Myles Dungan ‘They Shall Grow Not Old’ he states that Thomas Davis had also been court martialed the previous month for a separate incident, where a trench had been overrun at night and the soldiers baynotted while they slept by the Turks.

On average one British soldier out of every 3,000 of their troops that died in the war did so due to being court martialed and executed by firing squad, compared to the much higher, one out of every 600 of the Irish troops that died.

In 2006 the 306 men and boys shot at dawn for cowardice in the First World War were given an official pardon. Their families had been campaigning for this for 90 years.
**Clare Politicians who fought in WW1**

**Colonel Artur Alfred Lynch**: MP for West Clare (1909-1918). During World War I, Lynch volunteered for the New British Army. He raised a private 10th Battalion Royal Munster Fusiliers and was given the rank of Colonel, although he and his unit never saw active front service. Led his own Brigade in the Boer War. He survived the War to practice as a doctor in London. He (16 October 1861 – 25 March 1934) was an Irish Australian civil engineer, physician, journalist, author, soldier, anti-imperialist and polymath. He served as MP in the House of Commons as member of the Irish Parliamentary Party, and represented Galway Borough from 1901 to 1902, subsequently West Clare from 1909 to 1918. Unlike most of his compatriots, Lynch fought on the Boer side during the Boer War.

**William Hoey Kearney Redmond**: MP for East Clare 1892-1917. Died June 1917 age 56, Royal Irish Regiment, G/M in Belgium. Awarded the Legion of Honour (France), British War Medal and Victory Medals with oak leaf (MID). Mentioned in Despatches.

William Hoey Kearney Redmond was born in Wexford in 1861 the son of an Irish Member of Parliament who came from a long line of Catholic nationalist politicians.

He went to France with the 16th Irish Division in the winter of 1915-16 and was soon in action, winning a mention in despatches from Sir Douglas Haig. He gained his majority but this promoted him away from the action much to his displeasure and he only succeeded in returning to his beloved 'A' Company of the 6th Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment, the night before the Battle of Messines. By then he was 56 years old.

One of the nineteen mines blown on 7 June was at Macdelstede Farm immediately in front of the Royal Irish. 'A' and 'B' companies. Major Willie Redmond, one of the first out of the trenches, had been hit almost immediately in the wrist and then, when hit in the leg, could do no more than urge his men on.

Stretcher bearers of the Ulster Division brought him in and eventually he reached the Casualty Clearing Station at the Catholic Hospice at Locre (now Loker) where he died that afternoon - almost certainly from shock.
Claremen Courtmartialled by a Clareman

Ennis in the Winter of 1916-17

Three local soldiers, returning from leave, gave their rifles away to Irish Volunteers in Ennis, after having met Countess Markievicz on their train journey from Kilrush. The trio, including two Munster Fusiliers, were subsequently apprehended after a chase through the county town. They opted to be courtmartialed at the Front. John Bolger who was in the Australian Army was sternly reprimanded.

The two Royal Munster Fusiliers men were Michael Keane born 1891, a baker at Glynn's Mill, from 9 Burton St. Kilrush. One of a family of 13 which included his brother John, who was killed in action at Ginchy in 1916. Michael was tried by his battalion commander, Lt.-Col. Robert Kane, who, perhaps fortunately, was also a Clare man. He survived his sentence of six months of continuous front-line duty. The other (unrelated) was Patrick Keane, born 1894, a general labourer, from 9 The Glen, Kilrush. One of a family of 8 which included a brother Michael killed in action at Gallipoli in 1915. Patrick Keane's death sentence was commuted to continuous front line service in view of the large number of his family serving. He was placed in a fox hole between the lines until killed in action. He waited in this solitary post for several days until one night he detected an Officer who was on reconnaissance trapped and wounded in the enemy barbed wire. He crawled under fire, released the Officer and dragged him back to the safety of his lines. For this Keane was reprieved and survived the war.

Lt-Colonel Robert Romney Godred (‘The Admiral’) Kane DSO, Chevalier, Legion of Honour from Glendree Tulla, Royal Munster Fusiliers, died in Oct 1918 age 29, leading his battalion. He is buried in the Sunken Road Cemetery, Boiusleux Street Marc, in France.
General Sir Bindon Blood G C B G C V O : Cranagher House, Spancel Hill. Born 1842. He had joined the Royal Engineers when aged 18 and served in the Zulu War, the Afghan War and in India. He was credited with shooting 57 tigers. In 1914 he was made Colonel-Commandant of the Royal Engineers, and worked to recruit soldiers for WW1. He died in 1940. His wife Charlotte died in 1948. They are both interred in Corofin Churchyard. (Eric Shaw)

Capt William F Cullinan: Belle Vue, Ennis. Fleet Paymaster in the Royal Navy. In May 1919 he was awarded ‘The High Order of the Brilliant Star’ by the Sultan of Zanzibar in recognition of ‘services rendered in the protection of the Sultan’s Dominion’. He was frequently Mentioned in Despatches. In June 1919 The King was pleased to confer the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George on Capt Cullinan in recognition of services during the war.

Capt W.T. Deane OBE: He had worked in the Ennis Ordnance Survey when younger. He was with the Royal Garrison Artillery in the Boer War. He was promoted to Lieutenant in March 1915. (His father was Colour Sergeant Benjamin Deane from Ennis who was in the Royal Garrison Artillery, and had 4 sons and 2 step sons in the War) (CJ) Capt Deane was on the Birthday Honours list in July 1919 and made a Member of the Order of the British Empire O.B.E. He was publicly thanked for his services in connection with important inventions in coast defence work. (SR)

Lt Col. John O’Brien Minogue (CMG): Scariff, died Oct 1916, West Yorkshire Unit, G/M in England. He was a teacher in Carrigaholt. He was given command of a battalion of Yorkshire Infantry in May 1915. In Feb 1916 he became an ‘additional member of the Third Class for Companions of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George’ for military services in the field. He had a brilliant career rising from the ranks.
Daniel Neylon CBE: Toonagh, Ennis. He was the Chief Accountant in the War Office, and was Financial Advisor to the Salonika Expeditionary Force. In Jan 1918 he was conferred a Member of the Order of the British Empire and made a C.B.E. (SR) See Clare Newspapers and WW1 page 160. He was the son of James Neylon, the brother of John Neylon, Knockroe House, Boston, and the sister of Miss Neylon, the Matron of the Clare County Infirmary.

Berkley Vincent CBE KBE: Summerhill House, Doonass, Clonlara. 1871 -1963. At the beginning of the 1914-18 War he left India for France where he took part in the Battle of the Somme and later Ancre. During the Battle of Arras he was buried by constant shelling, but was dug out alive. Nearly all his command were killed. In 1919 he was awarded the CBE and six years later he was honoured by George V with the KBE. (Kiltenanlea Parish Church Clonlara) (See Clare WW1 Individual Profiles)

Major-General Sir Cyril Brudene Bingham White KCB: Caherblonick Cottage, Corofin. ‘The honours conferred by the King in connection with the Duke of York’s tour include a KCB for Major-General Sir Cyril Brudene Bingham White. He is the third son of the late John Warren White, Caherblonie, Clare. He was born on 23rd September, 1876. In 1905 he married Ethel, daughter of Walter Davison, Victoria, N.S. Wales. He served with distinction in the European war.’ Sat Record July 1927.
The Memorial Plaque

The Memorial Plaque was issued after the First World War to the next-of-kin of all British and Empire service personnel who were killed as a result of the war. The plaques were made of bronze, and hence popularly known as the "Dead Man's Penny", because of the similarity in appearance to the somewhat smaller penny coin. 1,355,000 plaques were issued, which used a total of 450 tonnes of bronze, and continued to be issued into the 1930s to commemorate people who died as a consequence of the war.

Daniel O'Dea: Kilmihil, died April 1918 age 19, on the Somme, Royal Dublin Fusiliers, G/M in Pozieres, France. Exhibits: framed and glazed memorial scroll, Victory Medal and British War Medal; Memorial Plaque

John Walsh: Miltown Malbay, died Feb 1917 age 34, Royal Fusiliers (London), G/M in France. Exhibits: Letter from the King, Memorial Plaque, Photo, and a poem dedicated to Major Walsh written by one of his brother officers.

Thomas Joseph Ryan: Newmarket on Fergus, died May 1916 age 17, Royal Munster Fusiliers, G/M in France. Exhibits: British War Medal, British Victory Medal, box for same and original ribbons, Identity disc, Memorial plaque.